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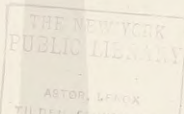




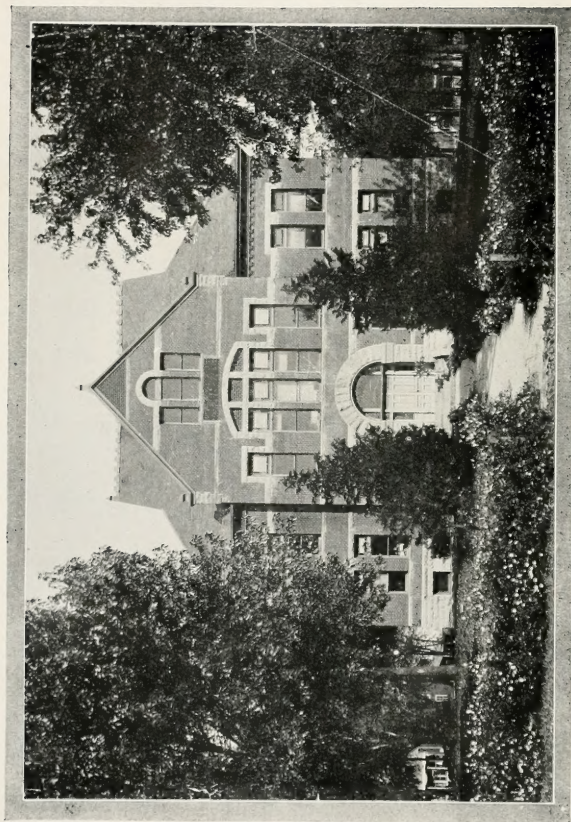








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SAC COUNTY COURT HOUSE



HISTORY  
OF  
**SAC COUNTY**  
**IOWA**

By  
**WILLIAM H. HART**

---

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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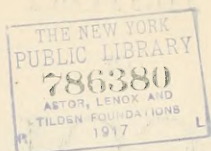
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### DEDICATION.

This work is respectfully dedicated to

#### THE PIONEERS

long since departed. May the memory of those who laid down their burdens  
by the wayside ever be fragrant as the breath of summer  
flowers, for their toils and sacrifices have made  
Sac County a garden of sun-  
shine and delights.



# PREFACE

---

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men that have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Sac county, Iowa, with what they were one hundred years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of these counties whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Sac county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Sac County, Iowa," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,  
THE PUBLISHERS.



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# HISTORICAL

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## CHAPTER I.

### GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

Without going into a detailed account of all that has been written by geologists concerning the formation and surface appearance of Sac county, it may be of some interest to the ordinary reader of this work to mention some of the general features of the soil and formations below, in this section of the state.

First, it should be said that the geological features here are not materially different from other western Iowa prairie counties.

Sac is the third county from the Missouri river, and the fourth from the north line of the state. It contains a superficial area of five hundred and seventy-six square miles, equal to 368,640 acres. It is admirably watered and drained by North Raccoon and Boyer rivers and their tributaries, together with several branches of Maple river which have their sources in the county. Cedar and Indian creeks are important tributaries of North Raccoon. Boyer river, so famous in this state for the fertility of its valley, rises in Buena Vista county and flows south across the center of Sac county.

The southern extremity of an important chain of little lakes occupying the "Great Watershed," is in Sac county. The middle of the county is about on the summit ridge, Raccoon river, on the east, flowing to the Mississippi, and Boyer river, on the west, flowing into the Missouri at Council Bluffs. On this "watershed" between the Raccoon and Boyer are situated several small lakes, the largest of which is known as Wall lake. This charming little lake is situated in townships 86 and 87, of range 36, being in the southern portion of the county. This body of water covers an area of about three square miles, and does not exceed a depth of twelve feet. Originally a part of the shores of this lake were bordered by earthworks, or an embankment of earth and boulders, in some places the latter having the appearance of a wall laid up by the hand of men, and hence the name Wall lake. In the waters of this lake

are many fine fishes and from the early settlement of western Iowa many persons visited the spot on fishing expeditions. In the beautiful autumn time of western Iowa, immense flocks of wild fowl, including ducks and other water-fowls, here congregate. In the north part of the county there was also another lake of about a mile square. It was in township 88 of ranges 36 and 37. This was known as Rush lake, but has recently been drained out by dredge ditches.

In recent years—since the beginning of the railroad era—these lakes, especially Wall lake, in the southern part of the county, have been utilized for summer resorts. The shores of Wall lake have been improved and boating and bath houses have made it a very popular place for excursionists. Camping and fishing, with all the amusements that characterize a summer resort, are here found.

At an early day, and even at this time to a certain extent, the Raccoon and Boyer rivers possessed a considerable growth of natural timber, including such varieties as oak, black walnut, cottonwood, linn, elm and the maples. The general character of the surface is rolling, in only a few places being very rough or broken—simply a beautiful prairie plain. But little is too flat or wet to cultivate, and most of the present county is used for actual, practical farming purposes. The soil is of unusual fertility and richness. Here are produced annual crops of wheat, oats, corn and tame grasses. Vegetables and some variety of fruits do well in Sac county. At one of the corn palaces in Sioux City in the nineties, Sac county took the premium on her exhibit of apples. Variety, color and flavor were all taken into account.

The soil is for the most part a deep, black alluvial loam, which possesses rare productive qualities, and will last for generations, even without fertilizing; but the scientific methods of the present century have taught the wise and intelligent farmer to conserve his rich soil holdings, by rotation of crops, the growth of tame grasses, etc., in order that his land may not “run down,” but be as rich and productive in generations to come as it is today. This drift deposit in all northern Iowa is from the original rocks of Minnesota, with much from Iowa itself. In general terms, the constant component element of the drift soil is that portion which was transported from the north, while the inconstant elements are those portions which were derived from the adjacent or underlying strata. For example, in western Iowa, wherever that cretaceous formation known as the nisnabotany sandstone exists, the soil contains more sand than elsewhere. The same may be said of the soil of some parts of the state occupied by the lower coal measure, the sandstones and sand shales of the formation furnishing the sand.



The northern and northwestern portions of Iowa contain more sand and gravel than any other portions. This sand and gravel was doubtless derived from the cretaceous rocks that do now or formerly did exist there, as well as from the pudding-stone beds of the Sioux quartzite.

Sac county is really too far north to be within the coal measure of the state. Good clays are found within the county, but the wealth comes largely from the rich alluvial soil and is more and more valued as the years go by.

#### ORIGIN OF THE PRAIRIES.

From all that has been written concerning the origin of the prairie lands of this state, it appears to be quite well settled in the minds of up-to-date scientists, that the annual prairie fires account for the lack of timber in this section of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys. It is estimated that seven-eighths of the entire surface of the state of Iowa was prairie when first known to white men. These prairies are not confined to any particular variety of soil, for within the state they rest upon all formations, from those of the Azoic to those of the Cretaceous age inclusive. Whatever may have been their origin, their present existence in Iowa is not due to the influence of climate, nor the soil, nor any of the underlying formations. The real cause is the prevalence of the annual fires. If these had been prevented fifty and a hundred years ago, Iowa would now doubtless have been a timbered country. The encroaching habits of forest trees are well known to farmers of this state, and they have from time to time observed this encroachment going on as soon as the adjoining woodland has been well protected from the fires. As it is today, and has been for forty years, ninety-five per cent. of the land in Iowa is tillable land of great value.

#### THE MYSTERY OF THE PRAIRIES.

The Iowa boy and girl of today knows but little, if indeed anything, of the beauty and mystery of the prairie; they can never see (as did their parents only a few decades ago) the moist furrow as the sod is turned in long rolls, the miracle of subduing the soil so wild. The prairie, just as God turned it, in long reaches, so clean, so sweet in its perfumes wafted on the winds that came down out of the southwest. After a rain, how pure all nature appeared. The wide expanse stretching away to the east and north, all prairie for miles from the new farm that was being improved. The billows of waving grass, dotted with wild flowers, the whole seeming to wave in unison with

the wind as it came over the hill. The mystery of the prairie? Unsolved, entrancing and one of rarest memories of boyhood and young manhood, in the days that have forever gone for the sons and daughters of the Hawkeye state, the floral emblem of which is the wild rose.

What tribes haunted these prairie lands of Sac county before the advent of the white race? What Indian princess had gathered the wild flowers to radiantly bedeck her swarthy brow? For this had been, in the early days, the richest of all pasture lands and the hunting ground of the Indians for many generations. Of this there were many mute evidences when the pioneer first set stakes along the streams of this county. The writer of this article knew the same kind of prairies in Iowa, when they were unsullied and unscarred, the gift of God, direct from His hand, lying like a great quilt of many colors over spreading valley and upland, the pattern most exquisite and perfect in execution, for it had been wrought out by the great Artist of the Universe. The sweet william, the violet and retiring lily, the latter the most beautiful and so hard to discover, so hiding in its habits—these were the flowers scattered through the wild grass, in many places a riot of bright, dazzling color.

To have known the unbroken prairie was to have known, intimately, virgin life. Really, to have studied it in all its deep mysteries was to have been well schooled in all things chaste and broad-minded. To have seen the joyous springtime, the mature deliberations of summer and the somber hues and tones of autumntime was to have witnessed the sublime in Nature's uncultivated flower garden. Then the great white blanket of snow, covering all as far as the eye could see, was but to look out upon a dreary, yet pleasing landscape. But how changed is all this scene. There are no large prairies in Sac or any of her sister counties. The plowshare has forever obliterated all that has just now been described. The landmarks have long since been swept down beneath the hand of the greedy, though generally laudable, husbandman. The beautiful prairies have served their time and have passed away, and with them the nimble-footed deer, the elk, antelope and that wonderful game bird, the prairie chicken.

#### PIONEER ANIMAL LIFE.

The following is a list of the mammals found in Sac county, at an early day, as shown by a recent state publication: Opossums, prairie hare, cottontail, prairie gopher, muskrat, meadow mouse, prairie deer mouse, northern white-footed mouse, brown rat, common house mouse, American beaver,

woodchuck, ground-hog, marmot, prairie squirrel, striped gopher, chipmunk, ground squirrel, western fox squirrel, short-tailed shrews, prairie mole, red rat, hoary bat, red deer, American elk, buffalo, American otter, northern plains skunk, civet-cat, American badger, mink, long-tailed weasel, red fox, prairie wolf, bob cat, mountain lion.

All but a small percentage of these animals have long since been scarce in this portion of Iowa, but at one day it was their home.

## CHAPTER II.

### INDIAN OCCUPANCY—TERRITORY ACQUIRED BY WHITE MEN.

Of what is termed the pre-historic race that inhabited this section of the Northwest, there is but little known, the only history of this extinct race being the mounds and the contents of the same. These mounds are found scattered here and there in many sections of this and other states, a goodly number having been discovered in recent years in Cherokee county. Whether these Mound Builders were a distinct race from the North American Indians or not is still an unsettled question, but the evidence so far goes to show that they sprang from some tribe from Asia. Those best versed in such questions claim that this settlement from the Orient came about either by ship-wrecked sailors, or by the true immigration from Asia, crossing at Bering Strait. There is every evidence that tends to show that the Mound Builders were people well up in arts and science, as then understood in the world, and that copper was mined and worked in a fashion now unknown to the most skilled artisan. They made implements of war and had elaborate houses, practiced domestic economy and were probably the ancestors of the North American Indian.

For more than one hundred years after Marquette and Joliet trod the soil of Iowa and admired its fertile plains, not a single settlement was made or attempted, not even a trading post being established. During this time the Illinois Indians, once a very powerful tribe, gave up the entire possession of this "Beautiful Land" (as its name, Iowa, really signifies) to the Sacs and Foxes. In 1803, when Louisiana was purchased by the United States, these two tribes, with the Iowas, possessed the entire present state of Illinois. The four most important towns of the Sacs were along the Mississippi, two on the east side, one near the mouth of the Upper Iowa river and one at the head of the Des Moines rapids, near the present town of Montrose. Those of the Foxes were, one on the west side of the Mississippi just above Davenport, one about twelve miles from the river, back of Dubuque lead mines, and one on Turkey river. The principal village of the Iowas was on the Des Moines river, in Van Buren county, where Iowaville now stands. Here the

last great battle between the Sacs and Foxes and the Iowas was fought, in which Black Hawk, then a young man, commanded the attacking forces.

The Sioux had the northern portion of the state and southern Minnesota. They were a fierce, warlike nation, and often disputed the possessions of their rivals in savage and bloody warfare; but finally a boundary line was established between them by the government of the United States, in a treaty held at Prairie Du Chien in 1825. This, however, became the source of an increased number of quarrels between the tribes, as each trespassed, or was thought to trespass, upon the rights of those who lived on the other side of the line. In 1830, therefore, the government created a forty-mile strip of neutral ground between them, which policy proved to be more successful in the interests of peace.

Soon after Louisiana was acquired by the United States, the latter adopted measures for the exploration of the new territory, having in view the conciliation of the numerous tribes of Indians by whom it was possessed, and also the selection of proper sites for military posts and trading stations. This was accordingly accomplished. But before the country could be opened up for settlement by the whites, it was necessary that the Indian titles should be extinguished and that people removed. When the government assumed control of the country by virtue of the Louisiana purchase, nearly all Iowa was in possession of the Sacs and Foxes, at whose head stood the rising, daring and intelligent Black Hawk. On November 3, 1804, a treaty was concluded with these tribes by which they ceded to the United States the Illinois side of the Mississippi, in consideration of two thousand three hundred and thirty-four dollars worth of goods then delivered and an annuity of one thousand dollars to be paid in goods at cost; but Black Hawk always maintained that the chiefs who entered into that compact acted without authority, and therefore the treaty was not binding. The first fort built on Iowa soil was Fort Madison. A short time before a military post was fixed at what is now Warsaw, Illinois, and named Fort Edwards. These enterprises caused mistrust among the Indian tribes. Indeed Fort Madison was located in violation of the treaty of 1804. The Indians sent delegations to the whites at these forts to learn what they were doing and what they intended. On being "informed" that these structures were merely trading posts, they were incredulous and became more and more suspicious. Black Hawk, therefore, led a party to the vicinity of Fort Madison and attempted its destruction, but a premature attack by him caused his failure.

In 1812, when war was declared between this country and Great Britain,

Black Hawk and his band allied themselves to the British, partly because they were dazzled by their specious promises, but mostly because they had been deceived by the Americans. Black Hawk said plainly that the latter fact was the cause. A portion of the Sacs and Foxes, however, headed by Keokuk ("Watchful Fox") could not be persuaded into hostilities against the United States, they being disposed to stand by the treaty of 1804. The Indians were, therefore, divided into the "war" and the "peace" parties. On old Black Hawk's return from the British army, he says that he was introduced to Keokuk as war chief of the braves then in that village. On inquiry as to how he came to be made a chief, there were given him the particulars of his having killed a Sioux in battle, which fact placed him among the warriors, and of his having headed an expedition in defense of their village at Peoria. In person, Keokuk was tall and of stately bearing, and in speech he was a genuine, though uneducated, orator. He never mastered the English language, hence his biographers have never been able to do his character justice. He was a friend of the United States government, and ever tried to persuade the Indians that it was useless to attack a nation so powerful as that of the United States.

The treaty of 1804 was renewed in 1816, which Black Hawk himself signed; but he afterward held that he was deceived and that the treaty was not even yet binding. But there was no further serious trouble with the Indians until the noted Black Hawk war of 1832, all of which took place in Illinois and Wisconsin, with the expected result—the defeat and capture of old Black Hawk, and the final repulsion of all hostile Indians to the west of the Mississippi. Black Hawk died October 3, 1838, at his home in this state, and was buried there, but his remains were afterward placed in a museum of the Historical Society, where they were accidentally destroyed by fire.

More or less affecting the territory included within the state of Iowa, fifteen treaties have been made, an outline of which is as follows: In 1804, when the whites agreed not to settle west of the Mississippi on Indian lands; in 1815, with the Sioux, ratifying peace with Great Britain and the United States; with the Sacs, a treaty of similar nature, also ratifying that of 1804, the Indians agreeing not to join their brethren who, under Black Hawk, had aided the British; with the Foxes ratifying the treaty of 1804, the Indians agreeing to deliver up all their prisoners; with the Iowas, a treaty of friendship; in 1816, with the Sacs of Rock River, ratifying the treaty of 1804; in 1824, with the Sacs and Foxes, the latter relinquishing all their



lands in Missouri; and that portion of the southeast corner of Iowa known as the "half-breed tract," was set off to the half breeds; in 1825, placing a boundary line between the Sacs and Foxes on the south and the Sioux on the north; in 1830, when the line was widened to forty miles; also in the same year, with several tribes, who ceded a large portion of their possessions in the western part of the state; in 1832, with the Winnebagoes, exchanging lands with them and providing a school, etc., for them; also in the same year, the "Black Hawk Purchase" was made, of about six million acres, also along the west side of the Mississippi from the southern line of Iowa to the mouth of the Iowa river; in 1836, with the Sacs and Foxes, ceding Keokuk's reserve to the United States; in 1837, with the same, when another slice of territory, comprising one million two hundred and fifty thousand acres, joining the foregoing tract, was obtained; also in the same year, when these Indians gave up all their lands allowed them under former treaties; and finally, in 1842, when they relinquished their title to all their lands west of the Mississippi river.

#### TROUBLE WITH INDIANS IN NORTHWESTERN IOWA.

While it should be stated that no serious trouble was ever experienced with the Indians in Sac county, save an occasional scare, there was real trouble in many of the counties just to the north and northwest, which should here be chronicled in brief.

After the treaty made by the government of the United States with the Sioux Indians, July 15, 1815, almost a century ago, it was believed that the tribe was forever at peace with their white brethren; but, alas, not so! In the light of all true history, it must be said that imprudence and bad faith upon the part of some white men brought on serious difficulty with the Indians of northwestern Iowa and Minnesota, which finally culminated in the Spirit Lake massacre, so well known and generally understood by the intelligent reader of Iowa history, and which event took place in the spring of 1857. While it is not the province of this work to go deep into the details of this horrible massacre, it is but proper to state that the author of this book does not believe that the United States government broke faith with the Indians, in this particular case at least; but that individuals did must be admitted by all honorable, fair-minded people who are cognizant of the facts that brought on this Sioux massacre, and possibly they, too, were more or less responsible for the New Ulm massacre up in southern Minnesota by the

same tribe in 1862, when vengeance was sought for supposed, or real, wrongs against the Indians in the fifties. So while "Lo! the poor Indian" is not perfect, on the other hand Christian civilization has not always exemplified the Christ-like spirit. Beginning in New England, trace the Indian wars on west over the Alleghany mountains, and through the Western states and territories, and here and there the treaties have not been kept sacred by white men, any more than by the untutored savage of forest and plain.

Coming now to the events that brought about the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857, let it be said that sometime during the month of February, 1857, a hunting party of Sioux Indians passed down the Little Sioux river. They made a short stay at Cherokee and were friendly. They then journeyed to Smithland, in Woodbury county. Here the white settlers demanded of the Indians where they were going and insisted on knowing something concerning their business and the plans they had in mind, before they would allow them to proceed further. The Sioux replied that they were going down to shake hands with the Omahas; at this the whites made the Indians give up their guns—which means as much to an Indian as virtue does to a chaste woman, the last thing she will think of compromising. Their compulsory surrender of arms enraged them, and they turned up stream, breathing vengeance upon the whites. The pale faces had stolen their guns and now white men and women must make restitution, which would only be satisfied in the free flowing of human blood, drawn from the bodies of the white race. Hence it was that on their return trip north through Cherokee and other counties, the Indians entered the cabins of the few settlers and after insulting the women and frightening the innocent children at their sides, took what firearms they chanced to find about the premises. By the time they had reached Cherokee their passions were strong and the wrongs inflicted against them at Smithland had become much magnified in their minds. Here they acted as brutal as possible for human beings to act. The arms they had been able to gather up on the way back from Smithland were directed against the innocent ones at Cherokee, in the notion that they might frighten the entire settlement into leaving the country. Cattle were stolen, provisions, of which the settlers had none too much, were violently seized and devoured, while they stood with cocked guns, to be sure that they were obeyed at once. Finally, they feasted for three days in and about Cherokee, seeming to be debating in their own minds what to do with the little colony that had recently come in from Milford, Massachusetts. No one will ever know just what ran through their minds. Suffice to say that those days were

the longest days ever experienced by these colonists, who expected every hour to be scalped or burned, as both were threatened.

One writer, in describing the situation, penned the following: "On the third evening pioneers Parkhurst and Lebourveau returned from Sac City. The Indians, suspicious of the Smithland people and believing they might be on their trail, were very anxious to know where these two men came from, but the cunning of the white men played on the Indian's fears—they would not tell them; so, apprehensive of danger, they set off early in the morning up the river. When far enough away to feel safe, they became ungovernable and murderous. In O'Brien county they entered the home of Hannibal H. Waterman, the first settler, as well as others, far apart, and there they destroyed property, took guns and in several instances ravished women, in the most revolting and fiendish manner. They grew more blood-thirsty until the terrible climax was reached at Spirit Lake, Iowa, where about forty were killed and four innocent women (including Miss Abbie Gardner, then a frail girl of fourteen summers) taken captive. Some of the four captives were inhumanly treated and died on the weary march through snow and ice water made from the melting snows. Miss Gardner and another lady were rescued by the state of Minnesota a few months later."

In this, as in all other cases, there were possibly two sides that are entitled to a hearing, yet while it is true that the Indians were not altogether blameless, for they plundered the settlement, killed stock, and did many things to exasperate the settlers, yet the people of Smithland were by no means angels, and public opinion has long since fixed the terrible Spirit Lake massacre as having resulted from the unmanly conduct of the white settlers at Smithland, but the Smithland people have always claimed all they did was in self-defense against the Indians. Be that as it may, when the sickening tale of the awful scenes enacted at and near the state line, at Spirit and Okoboji lakes, reached the ears of the little settlement at Cherokee, every heart was bruised and saddened. Parties at Smithland advised the Milford colony to leave Cherokee, and in a few days not a settler was left in the county. Some had gone to Onawa and Ashland, while others had taken refuge at Smithland. Right here is the darkest spot in the whole history of this unfortunate affair. Soon as the Cherokee colony had deserted their homes, people from Smithland visited Cherokee, plundered what was left, including flour, provisions, etc., as well as opening boxes of household goods, which the latter settlers had not yet unpacked since their arrival from New England. Matters now looked bad indeed. Word had been sent

on by some one to New England that the whole colony had been massacred by the Indians. It was then that Doctor Russell's society of Milford, Massachusetts, became disorganized. The people were disheartened, and all their fond hopes seemed dashed to pieces. However, in May, that same season, most of the settlers returned to their farms and homes and put in good crops, which yielded a fair return in the autumn time.

In this connection it should be stated that the part Sac county (then only one year old as a county, and three years as a settled community) took in this massacre was to send a few brave men out in the hope that they might relieve the distressed and bury the dead at Spirit lake. Among these men may now be recalled such as Capt. F. M. Cory, the Tiberghiens and others, who formed a rescuing party to try and unite with the companies sent from Webster City, Boonesboro and Fort Dodge, the latter under command of Major Williams, John F. Duncombe and the late Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter. But these men, including the Sac county delegation, were all too late, for, in many cases, the work had been accomplished before they arrived. So the men from this county returned, after having gone as far as Gilett's Grove.

#### INDIAN BATTLE IN SAC COUNTY.

Near the mouth of the Cedar there was an encampment of the Pottawatomies and Maquoketa tribes of Indians. They were attacked by a war party of Sioux, and when the two tribes united in common defense the latter retreated up the Cedar, hotly pursued by the former. Near the north line of the county the Sioux halted and fought the two tribes for several hours. A number were killed on both sides, the Sioux being defeated. The graves of the "fallen braves" were still to be seen a quarter of a century ago by the farmers who settled that portion of Sac county. These graves are along the banks of Cedar creek.

The late ex-Lieutenant-Governor B. F. Gue's four-volume history of Iowa, published about 1900, gives the following account of a bloody battle between Indian tribes, and from his description the scene of the battle must have been near, if not within, the present boundary of Sac county:

"In 1841 a party of Sioux surprised a hunting company of twenty-four Delawares on the Raccoon river, killing all but one of them. The Delawares, led by their chief, Nes-wa-ge, made an heroic fight against overwhelming numbers, killing twenty-six of their enemy, four of whom fell beneath the terrific blows of the Delaware chief. But one escaped to carry the tidings



CORY LOG CABIN, ERECTED 1853





to their Sac and Fox friends, who were camped on the east bank of the Des Moines river, near where the present State House stands. Pashepaho, the chief, who was then eighty years of age, mounted his pony and, selecting five hundred of his bravest warriors, started in hot pursuit of the Sioux. He followed the trail from where the bodies of the Delawares lay unburied for more than a hundred miles up the valley of the Raccoon river, where the Sioux were overtaken. Raising their fierce war cry, led by the old chieftain, the Sacs and Foxes charged on the enemies' camp. The battle was one of the bloodiest ever fought on Iowa soil. Hand to hand the savages fought with a desperation never surpassed in Indian warfare. The Sioux were fighting for their lives and their assailants for vengeance over their slaughtered friends. The conflict lasted for many hours. The defeat of the Sioux was overwhelming. More than three hundred of their dead were left on the field of battle. The Sacs and Foxes lost only seven of their number in killed."

Old settlers, including the Cory family, give an account of an awful battle between the Sioux and a band of roaming Musquas, in 1853, in Cedar township, this county. It occurred on section 16—the school section. The spring of 1856, the few settlers, including the Corys, were exploring the country at that point and came across at least one acre which was literally covered with skulls and bones of the slaughtered Indians, mostly of the Musquaqua tribe, which tribe now resides in Tama county, at the government Indian reservation. The wolves and other wild animals had eaten the flesh of most of the carcasses, and the piles of bones and skulls were a gruesome sight to behold. Several skulls were taken home by the Corys and were about the place many years. There are others who believe that the above engagement must have occurred several years before the settlement, and not in 1853.

The Corys' best money-making plans in the first years here were in trapping, hunting and especially in trading with the Indians, who sold them many furs, which, when a load had been accumulated, were taken to Fort Des Moines and there marketed.

At a time when the settlement consisted of about five families, one of the company had a very valuable dog. The Indians were afraid of him, and told the owner that he must kill the dog or they would kill him. At first he refused, but later, upon the suggestion of the settlers, concluded to do so, and the dog was shot. It was believed that had he not obeyed the Indians, the man, and possibly the little band of settlers, would all have been murdered.

## OTHER INDIAN MURDERS.

Father De Smet, who was a missionary at what is now Council Bluffs, in 1839, wrote in his diary, among other interesting things, this concerning an Indian affair which doubtless occurred about the northern line of Sac or not far over in Buena Vista county. The item reads as follows: "May 24, 1839.—A war party of Saucks discovered three lodges of Omahas on the headwaters of the Boyer river, consisting of nine men and twelve women. Invited them to smoke, accepted, believing them to be the Pottawatomies. They were treacherously murdered and their women taken prisoners. Danced nine days around the scalp post in the Sauck village. Huzzah! for the Indian braves."

The following account of Indian scares in northern Iowa is found in early "write-ups" of Sac and adjoining counties: "Early in December, 1856, a runner came down the Coon river with the news that the Sioux had been committing depredations near Gillett's Grove (now where Spencer, Clay county, stands). A company of sixty men, partly from western Calhoun county and partly from Sac county, was quickly organized. Enoch Ross, of Sac county, was elected captain and among others in his command were the following: W. H. Hobbs, Judge Eugene Criss, Judge D. Carr Early, Asa Platt, James Watt, William Montgomery, John Austin and others. On reaching Gillett's Grove, they found that the Indians had gone and that they had done nothing except kill a few head of cattle. The force of men was divided into different squads, some going one way and some in other directions, over the prairie. Judge Eugene Criss, in command of one squad of men, procured a saddle horse of a farmer in Clay county and, leaving his men, he took a reconnoitre. He discovered the Indians in a ravine, several miles from where his men were, and rode back to give the information, with the expectation that the whole company would be mustered and an attack made. When Mr. Criss arrived, he found the whole company in an active quarrel among themselves, the final result being that all disbanded on the spot and the fifty or sixty men came home. They arrived, the distance being over fifty miles, by nightfall."

Perhaps the last appearance of roving bands of Indians was in 1874, when fifteen Winnebagoes invaded the grove owned by H. M. Cory, near Sac City, in a hunting expedition. They hunted and trapped along the river several weeks that fall and winter.

## IOWA TERRITORY.

In 1834 this state was incorporated into the territory of Michigan and thus became subject to the ordinance of 1787; and two years later it became a part of Wisconsin territory, and two years thereafter became the territory of Iowa, with sixteen counties and a population of twenty-three thousand. The first Legislature was held at Belmont, Wisconsin, in October, 1836; the second at Burlington, Iowa, in November, 1837; and the third also at the last named place in 1838. As early as 1837 the people of Iowa began to petition Congress for a separate territorial organization, which was granted on June 12th following. Ex-Governor Lucas, of Ohio, was appointed by President Van Buren to be the first governor of the newly created territory. About this time there occurred what is known as the "State Line war."

## STATE LINE WAR.

This was a difficulty that arose between the territories of Missouri and Iowa over where the line between the two should be fixed. The strip in question was from eight to ten miles in width nearly across the states, between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Both territories claimed the rich, valuable land. Missouri officers attempted to collect taxes within this disputed territory, and were at once arrested and confined in jail in Iowa by sheriffs, and the respective governors called out the militia, preparing for bloodshed. About twelve hundred Iowa men enlisted, and five hundred were actually armed and encamped in Van Buren county, ready to defend their territory, when three prominent and able men in this state were sent to Missouri as envoys to effect, if possible, a peaceable settlement and just adjustment of affairs. Upon their arrival, they found that the county commissioners of Clark county, Missouri, had rescinded their order for the collection of taxes, and that Governor Boggs had dispatched to the governor of Iowa a proposal to submit an agreed case to the supreme court of the United States for the settlement of the boundary line question. This proposition was declined, but afterwards, upon a petition from Iowa and Missouri, Congress authorized a suit to settle the controversy. The suit was duly instituted, and resulted in the decision that Iowa had only asserted "the truth in history" and that she knew where the Rapids of the Des Moines river were located (this being the point from which the boundary line west was to take its place of beginning). Thus ended the Iowa-Missouri war.

Many years later, Judge C. C. Nourse stated that "if Missourians did not know where the Rapids of the Des Moines river were located, that was no sufficient reason for killing them off with powder and lead; and if we did know a little more of the history and geography than they did we ought not be shot for our learning. We commend our mutual forbearance to older and greater people."

#### IOWA MADE A STATE.

In 1844 the population of Iowa territory had reached a sufficient number to justify its being organized into a state, and the territorial Legislature passed an act on February 12th, that year, submitting to the people the question of the formation of a state constitution and providing for the election of delegates to a convention to be called together for that purpose. The people voted on this at their township elections in the following April, giving the measure a large majority. The elected delegates assembled in convention at Iowa City, October 7, 1844, and finished their work on November 1st. Hon. Shepherd Leffler, the president of the convention, was instructed to transmit a certified copy of the proposed constitution, to be submitted by him to that body at the earliest practicable day. It also provided that it should be submitted, together with any changes that might be made by Congress, to the people of the territory, for their approval or rejection, at the township elections of April, 1845.

The constitution as thus prepared fixed the boundaries of the state very differently from what were finally agreed upon.

On May 4, 1846, a second convention met at Iowa City, and on the 18th of the same month and year another constitution, prescribing the boundary as it now stands, was adopted. This was accepted by the people August 3d, by a vote of 9,492 to 9,036. The new constitution was approved by Congress, and Iowa was admitted as a sovereign state in the American Union on December 28, 1846.

The act of Congress which admitted Iowa gave her the sixteenth section in every township of land in the state, or its equivalent, for the support of schools; also seventy-two sections of land for the purpose of a university; also five sections of land for the completion of her public buildings; also the salt springs within her limits, not exceeding twelve in number, with sections of land adjoining each; also, in consideration that the public lands should be exempt from taxation by the state, she gave the state five per cent. of the net proceeds of the sale of public lands within the state. Thus provided as a

bride for her marriage portion, Iowa commenced "housekeeping" on her own account!

A majority of the members of the constitutional convention were of the Democratic party, and the instrument contains some of the peculiar tenets of the party of that day. All banks of issue were prohibited within the state. The commonwealth was prohibited from becoming a stockholder in any corporation for pecuniary profits, and the General Assembly could only provide for private corporations by general statutes. The constitution also limited the state's indebtedness to one hundred thousand dollars. It required the General Assembly to provide public schools throughout the state for at least three months in the year. Six months previous residence of any white male citizen of the United States constituted him an elector.

At the date of the state's organization its population was one hundred and sixteen thousand six hundred and fifty-one, as appears from the census of 1847. There were twenty-seven organized counties in the state, and the settlements were rapidly pushing toward the Missouri river.

The first General Assembly was composed of nineteen senators and forty representatives. It assembled at Iowa City, November 30, 1846, about one month before the state was admitted into the Union.

The most important business transacted was the passage of a bill authorizing a loan of fifty thousand dollars for means to run the state government and pay the expenses of the constitutional convention. The great excitement of the session, however, was the attempt to choose the United States senators. The Whigs had a majority of two in the House, and the Democrats one majority in the Senate. After repeated attempts to control these majorities for caucus nominees, and frequent joint sessions for purposes of an election, the attempt was abandoned. A school law was passed at this session for the organization of public schools in the state.

At the first session also arose the question of re-location of the state capital. The western boundary of the state, as now determined, left Iowa City too far toward the eastern portion of the state. This was conceded. Congress had appropriated five sections of land for the erection of public buildings, and toward the close of the session a bill was introduced providing for the re-location of the seat of government, involving to some extent the location of a state university, which had already been discussed. This bill gave rise to much discussion and parliamentary tactics. It was almost purely sectional in its character. It provided for three commissioners, who were authorized to make a selection as near the geographical center of the state

as a healthy and eligible site could be obtained; to select five sections of land donated by Congress to survey and plat into town lots, not exceeding one section of the land so selected, etc. Soon after, by an "act to locate and establish a state university" approved February 25, 1847, the unfinished public buildings at Iowa City, together with ten acres of land on which they were situated, were granted for the use of the university, reserving their use, however, by the General Assembly and the state officers, until provisions were made by law.

When the report of the commissioners, showing their final operations, had been read in the House of Representatives, at the next session, and while it was under consideration, an indignant member, later known as the eccentric Judge McFarland, moved to refer the report to a select committee of five, with instructions to report "how much of said city of Monroe (the place named for the new state capital, in Jasper county) was then under water, and how much was burned." The report was referred without the instructions, but Monroe City never became the seat of government. By an act approved January 15, 1849, the law by which the location had been made was repealed and the new town was vacated, the money paid by the purchasers of lots being refunded to them. This, of course, retained the seat of government at Iowa City, and precluded for the time being the occupation of the buildings by the state university. The question of a permanent seat of government was not yet settled, and in 1851 bills were introduced for the removal of the capital to Pella and to Fort Des Moines. The latter appeared to have the support of the majority, but was finally lost in the House on the question of ordering its third reading.

At the next session, that of 1853, a bill was introduced in the Senate for the removal of the seat of government to Des Moines, and on the first vote was just barely defeated. At the next session, however, the effort was more successful, and January 15, 1855, a bill re-locating the capital within two miles of the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines, and for the appointment of commissioners, was approved by Governor Grimes. The site was selected in 1856, in accordance with the provision of this act, the land being donated to the state by the citizens and property holders of Des Moines, then still styled "Fort Des Moines." An association of citizens erected a building for a temporary capitol, and leased it to the state at a nominal rent.



## PROHIBITION OF SLAVERY.

The passage by Congress of the act authorizing the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and the provisions it contained, abrogating that portion of the Missouri bill that prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude north of the thirty-sixth degree of latitude, was the beginning of a political revolution in the Northern states, and in none was it more marked than in Iowa. Iowa was the "first free child born of the Missouri Compromise," and has always resented the destruction of her foster parent.

## UNDER A SECOND CONSTITUTION.

In January, 1857, another constitutional convention assembled at Iowa City, which framed the second constitution. One of the most pressing demands for this convention grew out of the prohibition of banks under the old constitution. The practical results of this prohibition was to flood the state with every species of wild-cat money.

The new constitution made ample provision for home banks under the supervision of our own laws. The limitation of the state debt was enlarged to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the corporate indebtedness of the cities and counties was also limited to five per cent. upon the valuation of their taxable property.

On October 19, 1857, Governor Grimes issued a proclamation declaring the city of Des Moines to be the capital of the state of Iowa. The removal of the archives and offices was commenced at once and continued through the fall. It was an undertaking of no small magnitude; there was not a mile of railroad to facilitate the work, and the season was unusually disagreeable. Rain, snow and other accompaniments increased the difficulties, and it was not until December that the last of the effects—the safe of the state treasurer—loaded on two large "bob-sleds" drawn by ten yoke of oxen, was deposited in the new capitol. It should be added in this connection that during the passage over hills and prairies, across river, through bottom lands and timber, the safes belonging to the several departments contained large sums of money, mostly individual funds, however. Thus Iowa City ceased to be the capital of Iowa.

## CHAPTER III.

### ORGANIZATION OF SAC COUNTY.

At an early period Sac county was a part of Buchanan county, except the southern tier of townships, which were in Benton county. It was established in 1851 and was attached to the county of Waukau (now Woodbury), January 22, 1853, up to which time it had been attached to the county of Polk. It was attached to Greene county in 1855. It was named in honor of the Sac tribe of Indians, who, with the Foxes, at one time possessed the entire territory of the present domain of the state of Iowa.

In 1856 Sac county, which had previously been attached to Greene county for all administrative purposes, was granted a separate jurisdiction. S. L. Watt was the first county judge—and the county judge of those days was an autocrat, performing the functions of the present board of supervisors and county auditor, as well as those in part of the judge of the circuit court. H. C. Crawford was the first county clerk, and F. M. Cory the first treasurer and recorder (both offices being then combined in one).

Previous to the organization of the county the following persons were appointed commissioners to locate the county seat: C. W. Williams, T. E. Brown and Mr. Huxford. They made selection of a point six and a half miles west of the east line of the county, on the west bank of the North Raccoon river, adjacent to a fine body of timber. This is now known as Sac City.

The first election for county organization was held at the house of Eugene Criss, April 7, 1856, when thirty-seven votes were cast for the entire county. The officers then and there elected were: Samuel L. Watt, county judge; Frances Ayers, clerk of the district court; F. Lagourge, sheriff; H. C. Crawford, prosecuting attorney; F. M. Cory, treasurer and recorder; Jacob McAfee, drainage commissioner.

The next election in this county was that held on May 10, 1856, when there were twenty-two votes polled for officers, as follows: Justice of the peace, Eugene Criss, of Jackson township; for trustee, John McAfee had twenty-one out of the twenty-two votes cast; for the office of township clerk, Henry A. Evans received twenty-two votes and was declared elected; John

Russell was elected as constable of the township; also, another constable was elected in the person of William Allen; an assessor was elected in the person of William Wine; twenty ballots were cast for the office of supervisor, Joseph Gammon being declared elected. The above returns were certified to by William Wine, S. W. Wagner and G. F. Browning, and attested to by W. J. Wagner, Henry A. Evans, clerks of the election, and County Judge S. L. Watt, Justices of the Peace G. F. Browning and Eugene Criss.

For Sac township the election at the above date resulted as follows: Trustees, William F. Lagourge, J. Williams, William Fulks; justices of the peace, J. Severn, J. K. Lane; constables, P. Fulks, J. W. Clark; township clerk, N. W. Condron; assessor, J. Condron; supervisor, William Lane. The judges of this election were E. Stills, P. D. Fulks and Lorin A. Goff, attested by H. C. Crawford and N. Condron.

#### A PROPOSED COUNTY SEAT.

In the first records of this county it is learned that an attempt was made to locate the seat of justice for Sac county at a point on section 36, of what is now Boyer Valley township, to the west and south of its present location. It was at almost exactly the center of the county. The record shows that Judge Samuel H. Riddle, judge of the seventh judicial district, living at Council Bluffs, on November 1, 1856, signed the following:

"A majority of the citizens of Sac county, as shown by a petition and certificate of the district court, prayed for the appointment of a commission to locate the seat of justice for said county. In accordance with the prayer of said petition, I, Samuel H. Riddle, judge of the seventh judicial district, hereby appoint Jesse Mason, of Crawford county; E. Buterick, of Carroll county; and Doctor Bonnie, of Calhoun county, who shall within two months after receiving this notice of such appointment, locate the seat of justice for said county of Sac as near the geographical center as may be, having regard for the present as well as the future population."

This report shows they located the county seat on a portion of section 36, township 88, range 36, but while the record seems silent as to just why this was not carried out, it is found that another commission was appointed by Judge McFarland, at Jefferson, Greene county, the same consisting of Talmage E. Brown, Crandall W. Williams and Cyrus Huxford. This commission was ordered to meet at the office of the county judge of Sac county September 17, 1857, at two o'clock in the afternoon and, having taken the

oath prescribed by law, they proceeded to locate the seat of justice, taking into account the present and future prospects of said county. This proceeding is signed by G. W. Cochran, clerk of the court for Sac county.

The commission thus appointed had the following report to offer on the performance of their duties:

"To the Honorable Judge of Sac County, Iowa: We, the undersigned commissioners appointed to locate the seat of justice for Sac county in the State of Iowa, make the following return to your Honor, to-wit: That we have the 19th day of September, 1857, located the seat of justice for and in said county, on the following described premises and lands to-wit: On all that certain tract of land in section 24, known as Sac City, with its present additions, together with the east half of the northeast quarter of section 23, all in township 88, range 36 west of the fifth principal meridian, in Sac county, Iowa, and that we name the seat of justice Sac City.

"(Dated) September 19th, 1857.

"TALMAGE E. BROWN,

"C. W. WILLIAMS,

"CYRUS P. HUXFORD.

"Before County Judge

"A. J. CAIN."

## CHAPTER IV.

### PIONEER SETTLEMENT OF THE COUNTY.

To have been a pioneer in western Iowa—to have set stakes in the early fifties and sixties in Sac county—was to have taken part in many interesting, as well as trying, scenes and transactions. Far removed from a thickly settled community, far from railroads and mills and postoffices and market towns, hardships were entailed which but few of today can comprehend. The sons and daughters hear their fathers and mothers relate the stories of those long ago, never-to-be-forgotten days, but even then this generation cannot begin to realize what the settlers of fifty and sixty years ago endured on the bleak prairies of western Iowa. The pioneer period has about passed away in America and cannot, in the very nature of things, ever return. When the virgin prairie sod has been once turned over to the sunlight, its wild state is gone forever. With it forever goes away the wild game so common at an early day. A few prairie chickens may still be seen, a few wild geese and sand-hill cranes, but, practically speaking, they have been numbered among the things of generations just gone.

The few pioneers who braved the dangers and hardships of early days in Sac county have nearly all been gathered to their fathers and sleep the long sleep that knows no waking. When the few remaining pioneers meet in reunion and family gatherings, their eyes sparkle and they grow young again, as the fading reminiscences of other days are recalled. As was well stated by a pioneer in this section, at a gathering of old settlers:

“You come together with varied emotions. Some of you almost at the foot of life’s hill, look back and upward at the path you have trod, while others, who have just reached life’s summit, gaze down into the valley of tears with many a hope and fear. You gray-headed fathers have done your work; you have done it well; and now, as the sunset of life is closing around you, you are given the rare boon of enjoyment, the fruits of your own labor. You can see the land won by your own right arm from its wilderness state, and from the savage foe, pass to your children’s children—literally a land ‘flowing with milk and honey’; a land over which hover the white-robed angels of religion and peace; a land fairer and brighter and more glorious

than any other land beneath the blue arch of heaven. You have done your work well, and when the time of rest shall come, you will sink to the 'dreamless sleep' with a calm consciousness of duty well performed.

"In this hour let memory assert her strongest sway; tear aside the thin veil that shrouds in gloom the misty past; call up before you the long-forgotten scenes of years ago; live over once again the toils, and struggles, the hopes and fears of other days. Let this day be a day sacred to the memory of olden times. In that olden time, there are no doubt scenes of sadness as well as of joy. Perhaps you remember standing beside the bed of a loved and cherished, but dying wife—one who, in her days of youth and beauty, when you proposed to her to seek a home in a new wild land, took your hand in hers and spoke to you words like this: 'Whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; when thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me and more also, if aught but death part me and thee.' Or perhaps some brave boy, stricken down in the pride of his strength; or some gentle daughter, fading away in her glorious beauty; or some little prattling babe, folding its weary eyes in the 'dreamless sleep that kisses down its eyelids still.' If so—if there are memories like these, and the unbidden tear wells up to the eye, let it come, and today one and all shed a tear or two to the memory of the 'loved and lost.'"

In compiling this chapter the writer finds some difficulty in establishing the dates of coming and the locations first selected by the pioneer band in this county. Fortunately, there are in libraries of Storm Lake, Council Bluffs and Sioux City copies of a work published in Sioux City by the Journal Company, in 1882, the same being known as "Western Iowa," and in which is given an account of the settlement of thirteen counties situated in western, and especially northwestern, Iowa. This work includes a brief history of Sac county, and its pages are verified by the history of Iowa, by that splendid Iowa historian, the late ex-Lieut.-Governor B. F. Gue, of Des Moines, who has seen fit to incorporate most of this historical data on Sac county in his four-volume work. The following are extracts from this work published in 1882 at Sioux City:

"The population of this county in 1880 was nine thousand three hundred, but in 1882 it is estimated at eleven thousand. This increase is partly accounted for by the Narrow Gauge railroad (a branch of the Wabash), which is in course of construction and which will run across the county, passing through Sac City, thus giving additional shipping and traveling fa-

cilities to the people of the county. Depot grounds for the road have been laid out near the court house."—Northwest Iowa History, 1882.

Perhaps no better, more accurate account of the beginnings in Sac county can be had than to quote from a well-written article published in the local paper, *The Sac Sun*, December 24, 1881, which reads in part as follows:

"The immense immigration from the Eastern and Central states has for the past two or three years rapidly settled up the lands of Kansas and Nebraska, but of late have been diverted to some extent to the more certainly productive agricultural lands of northwestern Iowa. Many more of these home-seekers might have been induced to settle in this section had the people of Iowa and the Iowa government sooner awakened to the fact that so many thousands of good citizens were passing through Iowa to lands farther from market, and by no means so valuable as those of Iowa, all because the Kansas and Nebraska lands were assiduously advertised, while those of Iowa were undefended under the slanders mentioned in the appended letter. The General Assembly, however, to remedy this evil, appointed Hon. George D. Perkins, of the *Sioux City Journal*, to the office of commissioner of immigration for Iowa, and appropriated a considerable sum of money for the promotion of immigration to this state. Read what Governor Campbell says:

" 'Newton, Iowa, June 15, 1880.

" 'Hon. George D. Perkins,

" 'Commissioner of Immigration for Iowa:

" 'Dear Sir—Your invitation to the immigration convention at Sheldon, June 22, received on my return home from an extended trip east. I fully realize the importance of the convention, and the great interests to be considered, and I assure you my hearty sympathy goes out toward any effort that will tend to direct public attention to your beautiful country and fertile soil, and point the tens of thousands of homeless ones to that fair country that offers such splendid advantages for permanent homes and prosperous futures. During my visit east I had occasion to "talk up" northwestern Iowa in several localities and I found:

" '1. A total ignorance of the fact that so large a territory in Iowa lies open yet to settlement, the impression having obtained that a state with over a million and a half of people must be well settled up.

" '2. I found the old "grasshopper still sitting on the sweet potato vine," in the prejudices of many and it was only the work of a moment to



convince them that the "grasshopper" was long since a dead issue in any portion of Iowa.

"3. The terrible storms and daily hurricanes of wind were held up before me, and I told them they were more a native of Missouri or even Ohio, than northwestern Iowa, and that the settlement of our state, the planting of groves, etc., had very materially changed the climate.

"These are only a few of the objections urged, but among the most weighty, and I name them that you may see the objections that obtain in various quarters. There are tens of thousands in the East who would be glad to find homes in northwest Iowa, were they fully acquainted with the true condition of things, climate, soil, prices of land, terms, etc.

"With thanks for your invitation, and regret that I cannot be present, I am your well-wisher and friend.

"FRANK T. CAMPBELL."

"This sketch is intended principally as a pen picture of Sac county, as it now is, and will include a short outline of its history and a few incidents of the life of the early settlers.

"The soil of Sac county is a deep black loam, and in its nature is purely vegetable decomposition. Its depth is from eighteen inches to five or six feet. In some parts of the county the surface is almost perfectly level for long distances, but in general it is of the genuine 'rolling prairie' description. The inexhaustibility of the soil is shown by the fact that farms which have been under cultivation for from twenty to twenty-five years are now as fertile and productive as ever. More than that—the land may be plowed here when it is so wet that it is almost impossible to do the work, and it will not bake.

"As regards the productiveness of Sac county, perhaps as effective a way of showing whether the detractors of northwestern Iowa, mentioned in Governor Campbell's letter, are right or wrong, will be to give our readers the benefit of some of the observations of the Hon. Eugene Criss, a pioneer and resident of Sac county for more than a quarter of a century. Judge Criss says that his average yield of corn in his twenty-five years' residence has been from forty to fifty bushels per acre, and the highest yield was sixty-five bushels. Average yield of oats, forty to fifty; highest yield, seventy-five; average yield of wheat, fifteen to eighteen bushels; this, remember, is his personal experience, and with only fair cultivation, no fancy farming, that he knows of at least two of his neighbors who have raised as high as

forty bushels of wheat per acre. Others, too, have raised, in more than one neighborhood, from seventy to eighty bushels of corn to the acre, and this with no extra amount of cultivation. The principal agricultural products of Sac county, and this section generally, are corn, wheat, oats, flax, barley, rye and grass. Timothy, clover and blue grass grow readily and will make Sac county, at an early day, one of the leading stock and dairy counties in Iowa. And Iowa is, with rapid strides, coming into the head of all states in dairy products. We will put Judge Criss on the stand again in regard to the advantages for stock raising.

"We have stated that the tame grasses grow rapidly. Besides that fact, it is also true that Kentucky blue grass is rapidly coming of itself in places where it has never been sown. Along fence corners, along paths made by cattle through the brush and in the pastures, in spots where the timber and underbrush have been cleared, in door yards and other places, in some mysterious way that sweetest and best of feed for stock is rapidly making its appearance. It is a matter which the writer does not understand, but it is a good thing, and we are glad to see that this section is so fortunate. Grass is always sufficiently high to turn stock out at a date varying in the different years from April 1st to April 30th. And now we produce Judge Criss's testimony. The Judge is a Virginian by birth, but has had some years' experience farming in Maryland. After many years' experience in the two states, it is his firm belief that both cattle and horses do better 'running out' during the winter months in this part of the state than they do in Maryland. This, our readers will observe, is not guess work or the dictum of a traveler or chance observer, but the carefully considered verdict of experience.

#### LOCATION OF SAC COUNTY.

"Sac county is on the Great Divide, as the water-shed between the Missouri and Mississippi is called. It is in the northwestern part of Iowa, being the fourth county from the north line, the sixth from the southern and the third from the Missouri river, while it is tenth from the Mississippi. Sac City, the center of government, and not far from the geographical center, is about fifty miles by wagon road west from Fort Dodge and eighty-five miles southeast from Sioux City.

"Sac county contains sixteen congressional townships, west of the Des Moines river. It contains three hundred and sixty-nine thousand six hundred and forty acres, nearly all of which is desirable land for either grain or stock purposes, and the larger part for either or both combined. The larger

part of these lands are railroad property and these can be purchased by homeseekers, who will occupy them at once, on the most liberal terms. Many of the private holders are also selling on nearly if not quite as easy terms as the railroad land companies. And as for the grasshopper and tornado bugbears, it is perfectly safe to say that the farmers of Indiana and Ohio are as much annoyed by them, and have as much prospect for annoyance from them, as the Sac county grower of grain and stock. Sum up these advantages, and the reader will readily see why the population has been rapidly increasing ever since the opening of the railroad communication. Let those who have doubts give the county a visit and they will hesitate no longer. Sac county has not even the drawbacks so common to these fertile counties of northwest Iowa. What this is, is too well understood by the settlers who early located in the extreme northwest part of this state, before there were railroads to deliver coal at every man's door. Many counties in this section had little or no timber. Ida county, for instance, had less than a thousand acres within its borders. Sac county had many thousand acres of oak, black walnut, hickory, ash, elm, maple, box-elder, cottonwood, linn (basswood), and many other varieties native to this soil. The Coon river, that traverses the east part of the county, lies buried in woods for almost its entire length. Cordwood is delivered at from four to five dollars a cord, according to quality. The timber culture laws of the state—relieving land from taxes for ten years in consideration of the culture of a certain portion of forest trees—have also caused so extensive a growth of forest trees that there is probably more timber now in the county than before the first axe was struck on the banks of the classic Coon.

#### EARLY SETTLERS AND FRUIT-GROWING.

“The early settlers of Sac county, though they had the advantage of being able to try fruit culture under the protection of considerable belt of timber, had small faith in the country as adapted to the growth of fruits. Hence, little was done ten or twelve years after the county was first settled. When proper attention was given to the matter, it was speedily demonstrated that Sac county was really well fitted for fruit growing, and there are now many fruit orchards, vineyards and small fruit gardens growing on the fair surface of Sac-shire. Apples, grapes, plums, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries and other fruits grow rapidly and yield surely and abundantly, while the quality is unsurpassed any-



FIRST BARN IN SAC COUNTY



where. This section is the garden spot of Iowa, as Iowa is the Garden state of the Union. The dry, pure air of our unexcelled climate gives to trees and plants a healthy growth, and the fruits and vegetables are solid and delicately flavored and handsomely tinted. You can say the California fruit is larger; so you may say a pumpkin is larger than an apple, but how about the taste of the two? Our western Iowa apples are of a medium size, of the finest flavor and will keep much longer than any apple grown in a warmer climate. Therefore, the Iowa apple is in the near future the apple of commerce, and it is not unlikely that the principal future industry of Iowa may be fruit growing. But not apples alone. Nowhere does the Concord grape come to such perfection as in Iowa."

#### THE FIRST TO MAKE SETTLEMENT.

Coming down to the first settlement question in Sac county, the above authority continues:

"The first settlement was made by Otho Williams, who came from Michigan in the autumn of 1853, with his family, and took up a claim in the timber near Grant City, in the southeastern part of the county. He and his family were the first white inhabitants of Sac county, but during the two succeeding years quite a number of settlers made their homes either in the same neighborhood or in the vicinity of Sac City, and Otho Williams, at the end of about two years, complained that 'folks are gitten' too thick 'round yer,' and he and his family 'folded their tents like the Arabs, and silently stole away.' In other words, they sold their claims and disappeared in the direction of the setting sun. No one knows where they went or where their remains now lie.

"In the spring of 1854 Leonard Austin, F. M. Cory, William Wine and David Metcalf, with their families, W. A. Montgomery, with his mother and sister, and S. W. Wagoner and Harry Evans, single men, took up claims in the county. In August, 1855, came in Eugene Criss and family, locating near Sac City. A few days later William H. Hobbs located in the same neighborhood. During the autumn the population of Sac county was augmented by the arrival of John Condron, Joseph Lane, Joseph Williams and S. L. Watt and families, all of whom became permanent settlers. So far as can be now learned, this constituted the population in the county up to the close of the year 1855."

So much for the early settlement as given by those who have lived out-

side the county, but a more definite, and perhaps comprehensive, statement is the following gathered from such men as those now living in the county, who were among that pioneer band and ought to know:

In 1854, on the 4th day of September, there came a little colony from Jones county, Iowa, made up of the families of F. M. Cory, W. V. La-Gourge and his family, David McAfee and family, Leonard Austin and family, and Joseph Austin, the first blacksmith in Sac county, who was a single man, and who had a dog which troubled the Indians who roamed back and forth here, and they told him he must kill his dog or they would kill him. He refused at first, but seeing they intended to kill him unless he did, he wisely killed the dog, which doubtless saved the entire settlement from being murdered, for they dare not kill one and not the whole settlement.

The winter of 1854-55 was an open, mild season throughout.

The winter of 1855-56 was without much snow, but quite cold.

The winter—the memorable “hard winter”—of 1856-57, was one of universal severity throughout the entire West. Snow was from three to four feet on a level all over western Iowa and many of the deer were lost by breaking through the crusted snow banks, which caused their slender little limbs to be snapped like pipe stems. It is stated upon the best of authority that literally thousands were thus destroyed.

The next settlement was that of 1855, when a larger number found their way to Sac county and became permanent settlers. Among these may be recalled the following: Along the Coon river, upstream from Sac City, as far as Lee's Grove, in what is now Douglas and Delaware townships, the settlers were the two Vetalls, William and Adam, who brought in a large herd of cattle from Illinois; William Wine, who operated the first store in the settlement at Lee's Grove; William Allen and family; James Davis, William Davis, Eugene Criss and family, and a Mr. Ayers and a Mr. Joiner; also William Fulks and Judge S. L. Watt, who became the first county judge here in 1856. This doubtless made up all the settlement in this county up to the end of 1855.

In 1856 the additions to the settlement included the Tiberghiens, still residing here; Henry Evans, Asa Platt, Robert and George Browning, Mr. Wren, William Impson, Messrs. Condron, W. H. Hobbs, George Stocker and D. Carr Early, with possibly a few more.

Hugh Cory and many others, hereabouts, verify the statement made above concerning the first actual settler, Otho Williams, the roaming trapper and hunter, who must have been here as early as 1852 and remained but



about four years, and moved on to a country where civilized life would not molest him. Nothing is known of him after leaving this county. While he was the first white man to inhabit this county, the first to set stakes with the intention of becoming permanent were those of the 1854 colony, the Corys, etc.

One pioneer experience is related of the late Hon. D. Carr Early, who, in about 1856, came from Ohio by river to Burlington, Iowa, thence to Waterloo by stage coach and on foot to Fort Dodge, and on to Sac City. He was two days coming from Fort Dodge, a distance of fifty miles. He pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 12, township 89, range 36, it being necessary to visit the land office, then at Sioux City, a distance of ninety miles, which he made in three days. On reaching Sioux City, Mr. Early (then a young man) was surprised to find this "city," the headquarters for the United States land office, which consisted of a one-story frame house, one log cabin and three canvas tents. The first named was the land office, and the log house was the "city hotel." Returning to his claim, he built a log cabin, completing it about June 1st the same year (1856), and he lived in it until the end of three months without either flooring or chinking it. The house was simply the bare logs laid together. He also raised an acre of potatoes that summer and also was compelled to raise a small amount of corn in order to make his pre-emption claim good. In January, 1857, pioneer Early sold his pre-emption of a hundred and sixty acres for six dollars an acre, netting him in cash nine hundred and sixty dollars. The land was not worth more than this sum in 1879. This gentleman was later known far and near as "Judge Early." He took the cash named above and had a load of flour brought from Anamosa, for which he paid seven dollars per hundred weight and had to sell the same at eight dollars, so did not make anything clear for his speculation. Worse still, he sold part of the load of flour to people on credit and never received the pay for it.

#### POSTAL FACILITIES.

At that early day, 1856 and 1857, Fort Dodge was the nearest post-office to Sac county. In the autumn of 1856, when Sac county was organized, there were but eighty-five votes in the county and at that date mail had to be carried by able-bodied men, taking turns in going to Fort Dodge. They had to swim or ford several streams and get through Hell slough and Purgatory slough, on the way there and back. One pioneer who has gone through

this experience describes a trip during which he had to swim Purgatory slough on a horse with the United States mail for Sac county in one hand and his clothing under his arm. Another pioneer states that not far from the same place, and at about this time, a man was hired to carry the mail at twenty-five cents a letter. Papers would not be carried only when the roads were in suitable condition.

In the spring of 1858 the settlers in congressional townships 87, 88 and 89, in range 36, now forming the civil townships of Wall Lake, Jackson and Delaware, thought there was good reason to fear that all vacant land in those townships would be bid in by speculators at the annual land sale at Sioux City, thus preventing its immediate settlement. Nearly all the settlers, though not ready at the time to buy, wanted some of this land for their own use. They, therefore, met together and arranged matters, and when the day of sale came, the room in which the sale was held was filled with these settlers, and no others could force their way in. No bids were made, and the land was thus kept open for pre-emption—really a wise movement on the part of the pioneers of this county. While it was possibly a little “shady” in its looks, it certainly worked to the betterment of Sac county and its first settlers, who had no use for “land speculators,” who usually held lands for high prices and thus delayed advancement in all new countries.

The first mill in this county was erected on the Coon river, near Grant City, late in the autumn of 1856, the season that has ever since been styled in Iowa the “hard winter of 1856-57.” The snow of that never-to-be-forgotten winter was fully three feet on a level, and in places it completely filled the deepest ravines and valleys, and when crusted, after a February thaw, the crust was so hard that a team and heavy load could be, and was, drawn for miles without breaking through. That was the winter in which tens of thousands of deer perished by reason of having no grass to eat and because of broken limbs caused by breaking through the icy crusts of the snow. It was during that winter that pioneers in Sac City and its vicinity hauled grists of corn to Grant City to the mill just mentioned. Other provisions were usually hauled from Fort Des Moines, as our state capital was then known.

It is related by Asa Platt, that he shot and killed a buffalo over the line in Buena Vista county, and that while several were seen in this county, it is not known now that any white man ever killed one in the county.

The Corys and others were compelled to split rails all one winter to secure sufficient rails with which to fence against the deer and elk which

would otherwise have destroyed the growing crops. They seemed to be very numerous and not altogether as wild as such animals usually are. Great droves of them would congregate on the ice at Hell slough and other lakes in Calhoun county, and there browse upon the wild prairie grass of which muskrats had built their homes. During the latter part of August, 1857, a party of surveyors found a man dead in a slough on the prairie, who was supposed to have been murdered, as a ball had passed through his back. The remains were not identified, and at the date of discovery the affair created great excitement.

The nearest postoffice was at Fort Dodge. The early settlers would frequently meet at Sac City and hire some one to go up after their mail, paying twenty-five cents for each letter or paper received. They also had to go there for their blacksmithing and much of their early milling.

#### OTHER SETTLEMENT DATES.

At the fiftieth birthday anniversary of the twins, Lamont Lee and Mrs. D. B. Keir, children of Mrs. M. F. Lee, which occurred in the summer of 1913, in Douglas township, this county, the following roster of early settlers was made up, and from the large number mentioned as still surviving, it naturally finds a place in this "early settlement" chapter. It is as follows: C. Everett Lee, editor, of Lytton; Mrs. D. Carr Early, 1856; J. W. Tiberghien, 1856; Mrs. J. W. Tiberghien, 1860; Mrs. Eugene Criss, 1855; Orville Lee, 1860; George I. Cory, 1854; Mrs. George I. Cory, 1859; Mrs. George A. Heagy, 1856; G. L. Stocker, 1856; Asa Platt, 1856; Mr. and Mrs. James Staton, 1859; Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cory, 1854; Mrs. Amos Comstock, 1856; S. L. Watt, 1855; Mrs. John Stocker, 1855; Mrs. William Conley, 1855; Elias Tiberghien, 1856; J. E. Austin, 1863; Abe Basler, 1856; C. Everett Lee, 1862; Mrs. W. G. Wine, 1855.

Judge Samuel L. Watt, who died in 1878, was a settler in 1855. He was the first county judge of Sac county, and was here at the organization of the county; he issued the first marriage license in this county to William Montgomery and M. E. Wine. He also issued the first naturalization papers in the county to a foreigner.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES.

Concerning the natural resources, etc., of this county, the following was written in that well-known publication, the *Western Rural*, by their special correspondent at Wall Lake, in 1878:

"Our county is rapidly settling up, car loads of immigrants arriving almost daily. There are townships in the county already where the land has all been sold; still there is any quantity of excellent land still on the market in other portions of the county. To men in the East, who are living (or trying to live) on rented farms, we would say, sell what you have for cash and come West, buy a farm of your own, say eighty acres, at a cost of about five hundred dollars, or an improved farm at twenty dollars per acre. Our soil is of the very best quality, society good, educational advantages most excellent—no state in the Union being superior. We have pure water at from twelve to thirty feet; the climate is very healthful—we have never seen a case of fever and ague here yet. Every description of farm produce brings remunerative prices; stock raisers do the best here, however. Iowa ships more stock to Chicago in one week than all Illinois does in four. Cattle do well from being herded from May 1st to October 1st; the price for herding is seventy-five cents, and salt thrown in. Any amount of wild hay may be had by simply cutting it."

#### LIST OF HALF CENTURY SETTLERS.

At the Fourth of July celebration held at Sac City in 1906 a call was made through the *Sac Sun* for all to report who had lived in Sac county fifty years and more, and all who did so would be furnished free conveyance in automobiles to the grounds and given seats of prominence and honor on the speaker's stand. The following registered their names as having resided here fifty or more years: J. W. Wren, J. S. Tiberghien, Elias Tiberghien, J. W. Tigerghien, Mrs. J. W. Tiberghien, E. D. Whitney, Abraham Basler, Mrs. Anna Comstock, George I. Cory, W. G. Wine, S. L. Platt, James Basler, H. W. Cory, Mrs. Eugene Criss, G. L. Stocker, Asa Platt, Mrs. George A. Heagy, Andrew Impson, Mrs. George Hicks, John Condron, Mrs. Asa Platt, Mrs. W. A. Irvine, William Impson, Jr., Mrs. William Impson, Sr., James Shelmerdine.

#### PROSPERITY OF COUNTY IN 1880.

The *Sac Sun* said of the prosperity of this county in 1880—a third of a century ago—that "the most prosperous year in the history of Sac county is this year (1880). The vote has increased forty-three per cent over 1879. The population of the county has been added to the old number to the amount of two thousand. Many new farms have been opened up; a large



#### RESIDENTS OF SAC COUNTY FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

Top row from left to right—George I. Cory, Mrs. George I. Cory, Mrs. Olive Conley, Mrs. Lydia Stocker, S. L. Watt, Mrs. George A. Heagy, Abe Basler. Second row—J. W. Tiberghien, Mrs. J. W. Tiberghien, Mrs. James Staton, Mrs. Eugene Criss, Mrs. W. G. Wine, Mrs. D. Carr Early, Mrs. Mary Comstock, C. Orville Lee. Bottom row—Elias Tiberghien, James Staton, H. M. Cory, Mrs. H. M. Cory, Mrs. Duncan B. Keir, C. Everett Lee, William Lamont Lee, Asa Platt, G. L. Stocker, Elmer E. Austin.



number of buildings have been erected. In way of factory industries have been added this year a flax mill at Odebolt; a steam flouring mill, with four run of stones, by Henry Reinhart. Flour from these mills is sold all throughout this section of Iowa, and as far east as Dixon, Illinois. Crops ranging from seventeen to twenty-two bushels of spring wheat; oats, from thirty to forty bushels per acre; corn, from forty-eight to sixty bushels; flax, eleven bushels. The average of wheat for the county was seventeen and a half bushels per acre; average of corn was forty-four bushels; oats, forty-one bushels; flax, twelve bushels.

"Land sales were reported by Schaller & Early and D. Carr Early amounting to more than fifty thousand acres—all to actual settlers—equal to two full townships, or one-eighth of the entire county.

"Stock has been shipped to the amount of one hundred and seventy-five car loads; E. Criss shipped eleven cars of wheat; Criss & Hanger, thirty-five car loads of wheat, five cars of corn; five of oats; two of barley; eight of flax; three of rye; while J. E. Robbins shipped thirty cars of wheat, and twenty-six of corn. Condron & Woodward shipped out thirty cars of wheat; thirty of corn; seven of oats; six of flax. The total of one hundred and six cars of wheat; ninety-one of corn; twenty-four of oats; two of barley; twenty of flax seed; three of rye, making a grand total of two hundred and forty-six cars of grain from Sac City.

"The total rainfall for 1880 was twenty-three inches; highest temperature, one hundred degrees; lowest twenty degrees below; mean temperature, fifty-six and one-half degrees."

#### BURNING CORN.

The *Sac Sun* of December 6, 1872, said: "Several families in town, and we believe many more in the country, are burning corn for fuel. It is considered cheaper than wood, and it is almost impossible for those who do not own timber land themselves to obtain a supply of fire wood. The day for stealing timber from non-resident timber land owners is about gone forever in Sac county, as most of the timber is now owned by actual settlers themselves and they don't care to part with much of it. It seems to us a good plan for farmers to burn corn and sell their wood if they have any any timber. They can't sell corn for even fifteen cents in cash now and that is less than it costs to raise it."



## LAND VALUES.

After having gone over the early settlement question, in this connection it may be well to insert what prosperity had come to Sac county in 1912, as shown by a letter from Omaha by an early pioneer of this county, the same being published in the *Sac Sun* in October, 1912: "Having been a reader of your paper since 1872, I would like enough space to say a word concerning the present high priced lands in Sac county, which is now about two hundred dollars per acre. I saw this same land sell at from three to five dollars per acre in 1871. I sold two hundred and forty acres in 1902 for thirty-six thousand dollars, it being the first to reach so high a figure. I said at that time it would sell for two hundred dollars per acre in less than five years. The same fall I bought a two-hundred-acre tract in Washington county, Nebraska, for one hundred dollars per acre and only last week refused one hundred and fifty dollars for it, and I predict it will be worth two hundred and fifty dollars before it is transferred again. Only last week Arthur Brandeis, of Omaha, sold two hundred and ninety acres to an Iowa man for sixty thousand dollars. This is going some and the end is not yet."

## THE SWEDISH SETTLEMENT.

The history of the Swedish settlement in the southwestern part of Sac county cannot be written without repeating a part of the history of the Swedish settlement in Crawford county, where, only a mile or two south of the county line, we find the first Swedish settlers in the year 1867, when C. J. Star, C. P. Frodig and N. E. Rodine, who had been living in Webster county, decided to locate here, after a trip to the Missouri bottoms, which land they thought too flat. They were joined by five of their friends in the fall of the same year and in 1868 Mr. Star wrote to his friend, A. Norelius, in Minnesota, and told him of the rich country they had found. Mr. Norelius started across the country in a "prairie schooner" (covered wagon), accompanied by H. Buller, E. Ward and J. Nordell.

Mr. Norelius informed the writer that the first settlers did not know to whom to apply for deeds to the land they had selected until in the fall of 1868, when the enterprising and courteous agent of the Iowa Railroad Land Company, William Familton, appeared among them. He at once decided to reserve a number of sections for Swedish settlers, including the southwest corner of Sac and the southeast of Ida counties. Mr. Familton brought

Swedish landseekers to this locality from time to time. Being located so close to the less rolling and richer prairies in the western part of Sac county, it did not take the settlers long to cross into the new counties near by.

A postoffice was established in 1873 one mile south of the Sac county line, which Mr. Norelius and Lars Olson decided to name Kiron, which is an abbreviation of the scriptural name of a brook called Kidron.

Among the first to erect buildings in Sac county at this point at that time were the families of John Nordell, John Larson, Erick Olson and N. Lindblad.

Sol Peterson, representing the Swedish people who worked in the coal mines of Boone county, built his house in 1874, and soon came in Andrew Dolk and family; also Henry Hanson and wife, from New York state. John Baker was one of the first to break the virgin sod and raise a crop. None of the first settlers were rich, but they had some means acquired by hard work either in the mines or on the farm. As a rule their earthly possessions were strong arms, good health, ambition to succeed and faith in God. They were of an intense religious temperament, having separated from the state church in Sweden after the big revivals which spread over that country in the middle of the last century. The community spirit was strong and after the building of the new railroad north of the settlement a society was organized called the Swedish Farmers' Society. They bought and shipped grain and live stock at the new town of Odebolt. Henry Hanson was chosen as manager, and John A. Stolt as secretary. Another evidence of the progressive spirit of this community was the organization of the Mutual Insurance Association in March, 1879. A. Norelius was president, N. F. Rodine, vice-president; C. J. Johnson, secretary; and August Lundell, treasurer. This association has enjoyed a steady growth and at present time (1914) has twelve hundred members scattered throughout eight counties, including Sac. Andrew Norelius, after being secretary for many years, resigned in 1913, owing to old age, and P. G. Lundell was elected. August Lundell is president; John A. Pithan, vice-president, and W. J. Sandburg, treasurer.

The farmers of this locality were among the first to organize a mutual telephone company, which they did in 1901. Kiron has had two rural free delivery routes, a year before some of the older towns near by. Many of the farm homes are now lighted by acetylene or gas and heated by the most up-to-date methods. Automobiles can now be seen on most of the farms. No people from the continent of Europe are quicker to learn the language and adopt American customs than the Swedish people.

The first Swedish people of this community were Baptists. They organized a church in 1860, holding services in a school house until 1876, when a church building was erected two miles south of the Sac county line. Upon the completion of the Mondamin branch of the Chicago & Northwestern railway in 1899, the Baptist church was moved to the new town of Kiron, which the railroad company located one mile west of what is now known as old Kiron.

The influx of new settlers brought in many Lutherans, the state church of Sweden being of that denomination. On July 28, 1875, a congregation was organized by Rev. J. Telleen, of Des Moines, and in the fall of 1878 a church was built in the township of Wheeler, Sac county, one half mile north of the Crawford county line. The first regular pastor was Rev. P. A. Philgren, who came from Clinton county, Iowa, in 1881. He was succeeded in 1887 by Rev. S. J. Liljegren, of Algona. He was removed by death in 1890. Then came in their order the following pastors: Revs. A. M. Broleen, Jules Manritzson, J. A. Benander, E. C. Jessup and J. A. Christianson, present pastor in charge. The church edifice has been remodeled twice and enlarged, with basement and reception parlors. A twelve-hundred-pound bell was placed in the tower of the church in 1891. The present membership is nearly three hundred. Both the church and parsonage are lighted by acetylene and the church is heated by a furnace and the parsonage by hot water radiators. The value of the church property is eight thousand dollars.

In addition to the Baptists and Lutherans, there are the Covenant Mission and the Free Mission societies, which erected church buildings in the early eighties. The Covenant Mission built a church just across the Sac county line in Ida county. This was sold in 1908, the members uniting with the mission at Odebolt. The Free Mission church was moved to Kiron in 1899, from its location a mile and a half southeast of the new town. A Baptist church and also a Free Mission church were erected five miles north of Kiron in Hays township, Ida county, in the early eighties. This made six county churches in the settlement prior to the advent of the railroad.

Sweden was one of the first countries in the world to make education compulsory. All the first settlers could therefore read and write in their own language. And schools were erected among the settlers just as soon as districts could be organized and enough children located to attend them. The school houses were used on Sundays for public worship by the various denominations, until they were able to erect church buildings of their own.

Among the trials of these early pioneer settlers came the grasshopper plague, in the late seventies, and the diphtheria epidemic at about the same time in which almost forty children perished, some families losing four or five of their members. A cyclone struck through the south part of this Swedish settlement in the spring of 1878, destroying considerable property and killing one of the settlers, John Larson. Three or four settlers in Wheeler township lost their lives during the small pox epidemic in the winter of 1881-82, which started at the house of Doctor Stevens in Levey township.

At the present date from sixty to eighty per cent. of the population of the townships of Stockholm and Otter Creek, in Crawford county; Hays township, Ida county, and Wheeler township, Sac county, are of Swedish nationality. The people, as a general rule, are now thoroughly Americanized, the younger element using the English language, except at their religious services, in which both languages are used.

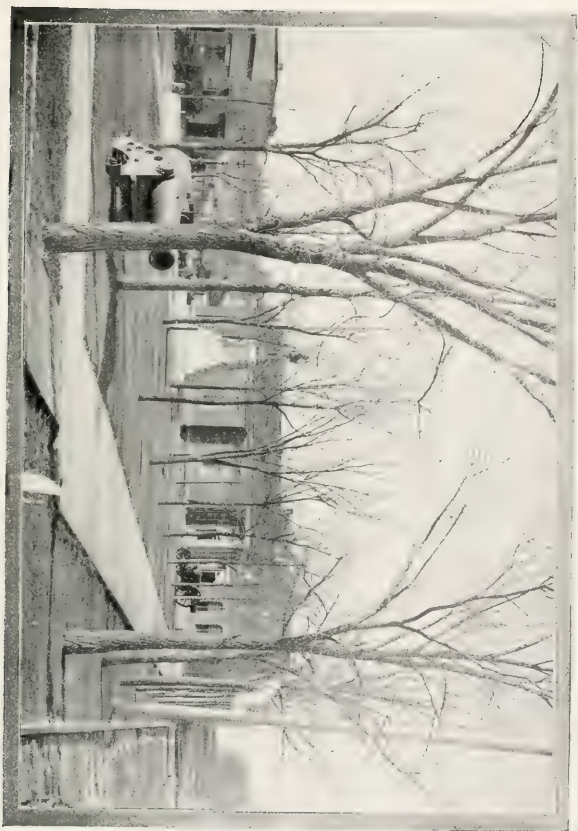
Many of the settlers have bestowed upon their children the benefits of a higher education. Ministers, lawyers, doctors and successful business men can be named who were born and reared in this Swedish community, now conceded one of the best and most prosperous in all western Iowa.

## CHAPTER V.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

When Sac county was organized the county judge system—a one-man form of government—was in vogue. A change in this system went into effect in all the counties of Iowa on January 1, 1861, and the first board of county supervisors met the first Monday in the month of January. Before that the county was really governed after this manner: The county judge had to perform most of the duties now devolving upon the board of county supervisors and the county auditor. When any public improvement was needed the citizens and tax-payers got up a petition and presented it to the county judge, and then came long remonstrances from those in the county opposing such measure and it was up to the judge to determine the legality and validity of such petitions and remonstrances. This applied to roads, bridges, court houses, etc. Certain cliques would get together and scheme to elect a man favorable to their crowd and then the judge so elected was under a certain moral obligation to do the bidding of this clique. His administration was called the "one-man power."

In 1861 came the system of electing a supervisor from each of the townships in the county. A county having sixteen civil townships had sixteen supervisors and they usually met once in three months, sometimes much oftener. What a majority of these men said was the law of the county. This proved cumbersome and very expensive, so in the seventies this was changed and in the counties having a certain population, the number of county supervisors was cut down to three, and these were to be elected from certain districts. One was to be elected each year, thus allowing two old members to be on the board when the new man took his seat. This still prevails in Iowa. Three good men can dispatch more real business for the county than can a larger number. The county auditor acts as clerk ex-officio of the board and looks after the affairs of the county in the absence of the board members who meet whenever there is sufficient business to warrant their meeting.



MEMORIAL PARK, SAG CITY





## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COURT AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The record shows that on November 6, 1856, at the house of William Wine, in Sac county, Iowa, were united in marriage William Montgomery, of Sac county, aged thirty-five years, and Mary J. Wine, of Sac county, aged sixteen years. The ceremony was performed by Esquire Eugene Criss, (later known as Judge Criss), and certified to in the return by County Clerk Henry A. Evans, January 31, 1857.

Among the first members of the grand jury who received warrants for such service were the following: William Montgomery, \$4.60, paid in warrant No. 117; Joseph Williams, warrant No. 118 for \$5.20; warrant No. 119 to Joel Austin for \$4.20 and warrant No. 127 to F. M. Cory for \$4.30.

December 7, 1857—"And now comes the citizens and tax-payers of Sac county, Iowa, praying for an increase of salary of the following officers: County judge, clerk of the district court, and recorder and treasurer. It is asked in the petition that the salary be raised from fifty dollars to ninety-nine dollars per annum, and the petition was granted and the court hereby orders and decrees that the foregoing officers receive ninety-nine dollars per annum, commencing with August, 1857."

In 1859—It appears of record that among the first foreigners to receive their naturalization papers and be made citizens of the United States, was one Charles Oldfield, who was naturalized October 6, 1859, by W. J. Wagoner, county judge, and W. H. Hobbs, county clerk.

May, 1860—At this term of court, a petition was presented, with thirty-six signatures thereto, asking for a bounty of one cent on each blackbird killed within Sac county. The petition was granted and many birds were killed, and thus the former damage to newly planted corn was greatly depreciated by farmers. This came under the head of what was styled the "Blackbird Law" and the bill was offered to the Legislature by Hon. S. B. Rosenkraus, of Hamilton county, residing at Webster City, and for which reason he was forever afterwards styled the "Blackbird Representative from Hamilton."

In 1864 bounties of five dollars were offered on timber wolves and three dollars on wildcats and prairie wolves.

In January, 1865, on account of President Lincoln's call for three hundred thousand more soldiers, the board of county supervisors of Sac county offered the following bounty for volunteers: Five hundred dollars for one-

year men: seven hundred dollars for two-year men and nine hundred dollars for three-year men.

On February 10, 1865, the county board ordered a well put down on the public square at Sac City.

About the same date it was ordered that the one-acre graveyard tracts at Sac City and Grant City both be enclosed within a good fence.

In February, 1866, R. Ellis, of Grant City, was appointed superintendent of public schools for Sac county.

In 1873 a reward of five hundred dollars was offered by the county for the discovery of a vein of coal not less than two feet in thickness within the limits of Sac county. It was not discovered.

On July 1, 1889, the county refunding bonds were sold to Ira C. Calef, of Washington, Vermont, at a premium of six hundred dollars. These bonds drew interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

In August, 1892, the minute book shows that the supervisors met at the poor farm to invoice the stock and holdings of the place and to settle with the contractors for erecting the poor house, built by B. F. Shultz.

In May, 1899, the supervisors offered the following bounty to any person or corporation who might discover coal within the limits of the county: "For a vein of coal two feet thick, \$500; for a vein three feet thick, \$1,000; for a vein four or over feet thick, \$1,500." This offer was to last for a period of three years. It appears that nature had not stored away this material in the county, and none has ever been discovered in paying quantities.

In the matter of refunding bonds of Sac county, the minutes for June, 1899, state that twenty-seven thousand dollars worth of refunding bonds were floated at three and a half per cent. interest per annum. This was the amount of the county's indebtedness at that date.

On April 3, 1900, the board of supervisors contracted with C. W. Welman to serve the county as a tax ferret, to investigate and if possible collect unpaid taxes due the county. He was to receive the sum of fifty per cent. as collection fees for such work. In 1903 this was reduced to fifteen per cent.

#### COURT HOUSE HISTORY.

Sac county's first court house (the present is the third building) was erected as a result of an election held July 7, 1860, when bonds to the amount of ten thousand dollars were voted. The same drew ten per cent. per annum. The following is the record concerning the election above named:

A petition bearing date of June 5, 1860, reads as follows: "Whereas,

a petition signed by the legal voters of Sac county, Iowa, has been presented to me asking that measures be taken for the erection of a courthouse in Sac county, and whereas it being prescribed by law that in all such matters the question may be submitted to the people of the county. Now, therefore, be it known that I, Eugene Criss, county judge of said Sac county, in compliance with the law made and provided, do hereby give notice to the legal voters of said county that the question will be submitted to them on the 7th day of July, A. D. 1860, at which time there will be an election held in the several precincts of said county, at the usual places and hours for holding elections in said county: whether or not a courthouse shall be erected in said county to cost \$10,000, in bonds bearing ten per cent. per annum. The interest due and \$10,000 of the principal to be paid annually until the debt is paid and whether a tax shall be levied annually, to liquidate the demands as they become due."

"And I do further declare the manner of voting shall be as follows: Upon each ballot shall be written or printed, 'For the erection of a courthouse,' or 'Against the erection of a courthouse.' 'For the levy of a tax,' or 'Against the levy of a tax.' And I do further declare that if a majority of the votes are cast affirmatively that such votes shall be deemed to be in favor of the proposition above submitted, and if a majority of the votes cast are in the negative, it shall be a rejection of the above proposition. The votes are to be returned by the judges of the different precincts to this court to be then canvassed according to law.

"Given under my hand with the seal of the county affixed, at Sac City, Iowa, this fifth day of June, 1859 A. D.

"E. CRISS, County Judge."

The legal returns of this election was made by Judge E. Criss, July 7, 1860, and the result was as follows: Total number of votes cast, forty-one. For both propositions, twenty-three votes; against both propositions, eighteen votes. W. H. Hobbs, county clerk, certified to the above as being true.

The contract for building the court house was awarded to W. N. Meservey, of Fort Dodge, for ten thousand dollars. He took the county bonds that had been voted, the same bearing date September 2, 1860, running for ten years. The building contract was signed by Mr. Meservey and County Judge Eugene Criss, attested by County Clerk William H. Hobbs. The contract read, in part, as follows:

"That it shall be built on the public square in the original town of Sac City. The front of said court house to face south and to be built on a line

corresponding with the north line of Main street, provided said street runs to the public square on the same variation of the needle as said street is established. The center of said court house to be built on a line corresponding to the center of State street."

Signed the 31st day of December, 1860.

The contract for this court house included these words:

"To be thirty-four by forty-six feet outside to outside, to be built of brick; foundation walls to be six feet high—two feet under the ground and four feet above ground, to the first floor. The first story walls to be sixteen inches thick and nine feet between floor and ceiling. The second story walls to be one foot thick and thirteen feet between floor and ceilings. The first story is to be finished off in four rooms for offices, with a hall running through said building from end to end and six feet wide. At back end of said hall there is to be two flights of stairs, one on each side to ascend to the court room.

"The second story is to be finished for a court room, with two jury rooms, one on each side of the stairway leading to the court room. The court room is to be furnished with judge's stand, bar, jury rooms, etc., at one end and to be seated with black walnut seats to be dressed and varnished. All the outside brick work of said building to be built of good, hard burned brick and the inside walls to be of such brick as are suitable for that purpose. The building is to have eight windows on each side—four on the first story and four on the second story. There are to be five windows on each end—two below and three above—all to be of twelve lights of glass, said glass to be twelve by eighteen inches each.

"The roof is to be a self-supporting roof and covered with good shingles laid four inches to the weather. The brick work is to be painted and penciled. The floors are all to be of good oak or pine, seasoned, dressed and matched. The wood work on the entire building is to be painted with three good coats of white lead and oil, save the varnished work. The walls are to be plastered by a three-coat work. The cupola is to be a good sized one of seasoned lumber, to be patterned after and as good as the one at Denison, Crawford county, Iowa.

"Said building is to be erected, enclosed and the lower story plastered by December 1, 1861, and the upper rooms to be finished as to admit of holding court in them by April 1, following, and the whole to be completed by August 1, 1862."

This court house served well its purpose until the erection of the second

court house of the county, which was erected under the following circumstances, as seen by the county records:

In 1873 it appears that the county was obliged to lease rooms of private individuals for the accommodation of the county clerk and recorder. The bids for the erection of the second court house were let March 13, 1873. Bonds had been issued according to the vote of the people and sold to the amount of \$30,000 to Jackson Orr, at ninety-three per cent. of their face value. The contract was awarded to O. J. King at \$26,800, and subsequently there were changes and extras as follows: Cement foundation, \$1,500; four vaults, \$400; additional painting, \$68; two base-burner stoves, \$82. This building was first used by the county January 1, 1874, and the square was ordered fenced, the contract being let to Orson Lee the same year. The old court house building was ordered sold, as well as the county safe.

This building is described in a work published at that day as follows: "The new court house is eighty-four by fifty-six feet, solidly and handsomely built of brick, with limestone foundations, and is one of the best county buildings in the Northwest. It cost thirty thousand dollars. The first floor is fitted up for the county officers, with vaults for the county records. The upper story has the court room, jury rooms, etc. With the court room fitted up for a term of court there are about four hundred sittings, but in use as a hall for lectures or political meetings, there is ample room for six hundred people. One room in the basement is used for a jail. A cage of boiler iron, containing two cells, fills about half the room and makes the jail a pretty secure one."

#### THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

By 1888 Sac county people had about decided to issue bonds and clear an overhanging debt, thus saving interest and making the future generation do their share towards caring for such legitimate obligations. Just when this was about to be brought about the court house then in use was burned (October 3, 1888,) and this stopped further talk of refunding. A new court house must of necessity be quickly provided for the safety of the public records of the county. It was thought the fire was caused by an incendiary, and a reward of two hundred dollars was offered for the arrest and turning over to the county authorities of one Carlson, supposed to be the party who fired the building. The record shows: "Whereas, H. A. Hutchinson, a constable of Lake City, did capture and return him to Sac City, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the board of supervisors, consider him entitled to the

reward and instruct the county auditor to issue him a warrant for the amount of two hundred dollars."

Carlson had been incarcerated in the jail and set fire to it, burning the court house. He was tried and sentenced to twelve years in the penitentiary. He was a Swede farm hand, aged twenty-three years and worked on the Cook ranch. The county clerk's books were the worst burned. The treasurer and recorder got off better, and the sheriff's books and papers were all destroyed. Also the county law library was lost. Carlson was tried before Judge Macomber.

Concerning the present court house structure and its construction, the county records say:

"May 2, 1889—Order No. 1. Resolved, that county court house for the use of Sac county, Iowa, be at once erected on the site of the one recently burned in said county and on the plat of land known as the public square in the town of Sac City, at a cost of not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars." All three county supervisors voted for this, and all subsequent measures relative to this building. The board then consisted of the following citizens: H. H. Fitch, C. H. Babcock and C. W. Marcy.

"Order No. 2—Resolved, that the sum of fifteen thousand dollars of the money received from the insurance companies, as an indemnity for the loss of the former court house, in said county, recently destroyed by fire, be appropriated to erect a new court house."

"Order No. 3—Resolved, that the plans and specifications furnished to Sac county by J. M. Russell for a court house building be adopted, and the new court house built in accordance with said plans and specifications, as now filed in the office of the auditor of Sac county."

"Order No. 4—Resolved, that the bid of fifteen thousand dollars for the erection of a court house building to be erected in Sac county, Iowa, according to plans and specifications furnished said county by J. M. Russell, made by Asa Platt, D. E. Hallett, D. C. Early, James N. Miller, A. D. Peck, Myron Childs, J. E. Robbins, John M. Fox and W. C. Shull, be accepted, and that the contract and bond tendered by them for the completion of the work by January 1, 1890, be accepted." A tower surmounted the building, but was taken down in 1900. In July, 1911, a new roof of slate was placed on the entire roof and other improvements made, including the repainting of the inside. The corner stone, laid by the Masonic fraternity, bears this inscription: "Laid by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M., July 13, A. D. 1889, A. L. 5889."

Just at this time, when the county was without a court house, the citizens

in the south part of Sac county, especially in and near the town of Wall Lake, sought to have the county seat removed and a new court house erected at Wall Lake. A great fight was put up and remonstrances and petitions galore were circulated here and there over the county. The citizens at Sac City got together and formed a home company and pledged themselves to duplicate the new court house then just finished at Storm Lake, for the consideration of the fifteen thousand dollars insurance due the county, they making up the balance toward building a thirty-thousand-dollar structure, which in the end was accomplished. This company of Sac City citizens deposited the collateral with the county auditor, who issued them the following certificate:

"This is to certify that there has been deposited with the auditor of Sac county, for the use of said county, a contract signed by A. Platt, D. E. Hallett, D. Carr Early, A. D. Peck, James N. Miller, J. E. Robbins, Myron Childs, John M. Fox and W. C. Shull, agreeing to build on the court house square in Sac City, on a new foundation, a court house according to the plans and specifications to be furnished by J. M. Russell, of Storm Lake, said court house being estimated to cost thirty thousand dollars, to be built under the direction of said architect and the board of supervisors, to be a duplicate of the one recently erected in Buena Vista county; to furnish the same with steam heating apparatus and to deliver said court house, so built and furnished to the county for the sum of fifteen thousand dollars. Said contract is accompanied by a bond of sixty thousand dollars, signed by the above parties as principals. Said contract is subject to acceptance by the county at any time prior to January 1, 1891, and cannot be withdrawn by said contractors before that date.

"(Signed) by C. W. MARCY, for the Board of Supervisors.

"Attest: C. C. CLEVELAND, County Auditor.

"January 26, 1889.

#### THE COUNTY JAIL.

The first real jail for Sac county was in the basement of the court house, which was erected in 1874, but the records show that in September, 1893, the supervisors made the following entry in their official proceedings:

"Whereas, Sac county, Iowa, being without a jail, is compelled to send prisoners and persons detained by law, to other counties for imprisonment and detention, etc., etc., hence it is deemed expedient by the board of supervisors of Sac county, in the management of the business of said county, to



erect a jail and, therefore, be it resolved by the board of supervisors, in regular session this 13th day of June, 1893, that there be submitted to the qualified electors of said Sac county, at the next general election, the following question: "Shall the board of county supervisors of this county erect a jail, the cost not to exceed ten thousand dollars."

(Signed)

"C. H. BABCOCK, Chairman of the Board."

In September, 1893, the following was entered on the board's minute book: "Resolved by the board of supervisors of Sac county, Iowa, that said county will cause to be erected in the court house square at Sac City a jail having the necessary cells, cages and rooms, at a cost not to exceed ten thousand dollars, and that said county raise the said amount by levying a tax on the taxable property of the county in sums as follows: In the year 1893, two and one-half mills on the dollar, which tax shall be levied and collected by law as other taxes in the county. The direction of said jail shall be under the supervision of the board of county supervisors of said county, but these provisions shall not be binding unless ratified by a majority of the legal voters of said county voting for or against the proposition, submitting the same at the general election to be held in November, 1893, at which election it is ordered that the propositions herein contained shall be submitted to them, etc." This jail was to be completed in 1894. The election named was held, but the measure was lost by a majority of over three hundred.

Then the matter was up to the board to provide a safe jail, so in June, 1894, a contract was awarded to the Pauly Jail Building Company, of St. Louis, at four thousand two hundred and thirty-six dollars. It is situated on the northwest corner of the court house square and stands on a good foundation four feet in the earth. It is a red brick structure and now looks the worse for wear. It was so located that a jailer's house could be added thereto, but none has ever been erected there. A jail office is found at the south end of the building. The jail has two of the best steel-plate cells, with a steel corridor for the use of prisoners. It is really, today, a safe, but ugly looking jail for so rich a county as Sac!

It is, however, probably an improvement over the old jail that was under the court house, from which several prisoners made their escape, including two horse thieves, as noted in the following as appearing in the *Sac Sun* of November, 1878: "The jail breakers, in escaping, first set fire to the ceiling of the jail and burned a hole up through the floor into the treasurer's office. They, no doubt, intended to make a hole through, when they discovered the

ventilating pipe could be pulled apart and thus give them an easier access to the outside and to final freedom. It was lucky that they did not get the whole court house on fire. We suggest to the board of supervisors that it is hardly worth while to spend more money on the jail for the purpose of keeping prisoners from other counties. We have furnished Beuma Vista and Ida counties with rooms, food and fuel and attendance long enough. Sac county has had few criminals confined there, compared with other counties. The jail should not be under the court house, but as it is, it would be safer and cheaper to hire a watchman than to expend money to make this one saw and file proof."

#### THE COUNTY FARM.

The care which any people display towards the unfortunate poor within their midst is an almost sure index of what class of citizens they are. From the earliest date, the taxpayers in Sac county have sought to provide for and, as far as possible, relieve the distress and absolute needs of their poorer classes. While the authorities have never been in the habit of caring for the lazy and shiftless classes, they have ever desired that those who had not the means with which to provide for themselves should not want and suffer. Up to 1891 the pauper element, and those who needed some aid, were cared for in and by the different townships of the county, but during the month of December, that year, the supervisors purchased, at thirty-five dollars per acre, a quarter section of land in section 14 of Boyer Valley civil township, for the purpose of establishing a county farm, which has since been maintained. In 1905 the proceedings of the county supervisors included an invoice of the stock, implements, supplies and products of this county farm, and it was shown that the total value of the farm and its contents and belongings amounted to about \$17,035. Of this amount, the land was placed at \$12,800. That year the receipts of the farm amounted to \$3,045. The cost of keeping the eight paupers that year amounted to \$906.40.

In the year 1912 the county auditor's report shows the following concerning the county farm, usually styled the "Poor Farm." Valuation, \$23,200; produce raised, \$1,617; implements owned, \$983; furniture, \$452; live stock and poultry, \$3,065; pantry stores, \$120; total, \$30,351. For the same year the expenditures were: Salaries and labor, \$1,135.50; subsistence, \$1,461.20; medical expenses, \$45.58; fuel and light, \$568.18; improvements and repairs, \$428.74; feed, \$123.95; feed bought, \$518.21; miscellaneous, \$227.46; total expenses, \$4,508.82. Cost of keeping the inmates for 1911, \$972.79.

Of recent years the farm has not been a very profitable investment to the county. Not all of the poor are cared for there, as much aid is given outside, while the inmates and the stock of the place has not been fully up to former standards, but at this date (1914) efforts are being made to stock up and run the farm on a better basis.

In 1890 a resolution was passed by the county board of supervisors to this effect: "Whereas, the American Educational Association proposes to take the homeless children coming under the charge of the county, that are of a sound mind and of good body, and place them in suitable homes and become responsible for their future maintenance and support, upon the condition that the said county pay to said association the sum of twenty-five dollars for each child so taken charge of." This proposition was accepted.

#### COUNTY FINANCES.

Sac county, like all Iowa counties, has had its own financial history. It has, like its individual members, had its years of despondency and gloom and accompanying debts hanging over its treasury like a pall, but, with the passing of those earlier and more trying years, came the spell of prosperity that makes glad every taxpayer's heart. At one time more than thirty-five thousand dollars would not fully cover the indebtedness of this county. Bridges, roads, ditches, school houses and three court houses all had to come in for their full share of improvement, before the county could boast, as she does today, of her one-hundred-and-fifty and two-hundred-dollar land for agricultural purposes.

During the never-to-be-forgotten Civil war days, soldiers' bounties, wild animal bounties, even "blackbird bounties," had to be cared for. But the good citizen kept steadily pressing onward, shouting with the songster, "Deliverance will come!" There was a period in this county when county warrants were not at par by any means, and there were men who took advantage (possibly legally) of such conditions and profited thereby to the detriment of taxpayers and warrant holders. Then there came another period, when men served on the board of supervisors, and were elected to county official positions, who stood squarely for the right, and under their administration a "clean-up" process was undertaken, which worked well for all concerned in the upbuilding and prosperity of the "Kingdom of Sac." There has never been a real defalcation in the county's official record.

In passing, it may be stated that the county first got in debt to provide the ten-thousand-dollar court house, for which bonds were issued in the

sixties, and over which there arose a long-drawn-out litigation from the local courts to the United States supreme court. The latter court decided that the county must stand by and pay the bonds issued to Mr. Meservey, of Fort Dodge, for the erection of the court house, which was ordered done under Judge Eugene Criss's administration as county judge.

The county treasurer's semi-annual report for the period extending from June 1, 1912, to January 1, 1913, shows the revenues collected and disbursed for that six-month period, round numbers only being carried in this statement:

Funds.	Collected.	Disbursed.	On hand Jan. 1, '13.
State -----	\$13,378.00	\$13,409.00	\$ 114.00
State University -----	600.00	602.00	7.00
State College -----	600.00	602.00	7.00
State Normal -----	300.00	301.00	3.22
County -----	22,472.00	21,722.00	348.59
County School -----	3,000.00	4,812.00	1,085.64
County Road -----	2,360.00	5,233.00	340.03
County Bond -----	1,500.00	3,441.00	528.69
County Bridge -----	15,303.00	29,047.00	1,580.27
County Poor -----	3,300.00	3,983.00	1,847.78
Insane -----	3,200.00	3,331.00	4,871.68
Temporary School -----	1,600.00	860.00	1,141.87
Permanent School -----	1,500.00	1,250.00	250.00
Institute -----	254.00	397.00	262.20
Domestic Animals -----	614.00	1,352.00	387.68
Farmers' Institute -----	----	75.00	----
Motor Vehicles -----	1,603.00	2,626.00	1,461.90
Soldiers' Relief -----	907.00	1,024.00	1,659.00
Totals -----	\$61,491.00	\$94,067.00	\$15,906.16

The county treasury had on hand enough funds, on July 1, 1912, to make the difference in the above figures, hence the county finances now stand as above stated.

Figuring from the county books and reports it is also shown that, counting in all the township finances, debit and credit, up to January 1, 1913, the county had on hand \$34,856.06 in its treasury, a showing most

excellent indeed. It was not a score of years ago that this county had an indebtedness equal to the amount on hand today.

#### TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH LINES.

There are at present more than thirty telephone lines operating in Sac county, having a mileage of 854 miles, and of telegraph lines, 107 miles, assessed at \$80 per mile. The total assessment for telegraph lines in county, \$8,602.40. With the various methods of communication the county's people are in touch with one another, as well as with the outside world.

#### DISBURSEMENTS FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES.

The following shows the drainage districts in 1913 that had the amounts indicated disbursed in the year 1912-13:

Drainage District No. 1, eighty-one cents; drainage district No. 2, \$2,166.76; drainage district No. 3, \$63.78; drainage district No. 5, \$43.94; drainage district No. 7, \$31.26; drainage district No. 11, \$7.66; drainage district No. 16, \$24,551.16; drainage district No. 20, \$201.45; drainage district No. 28, \$20.00; drainage district No. 29, \$10,700; drainage district No. 31, \$437.39; drainage district No. 34, \$2,008.76; drainage district No. 36, \$95.17; drainage district No. 38, \$2,124.71; drainage district No. 39, \$950.30; drainage district No. 40, \$2,649.98.

This makes a grand total of \$73,203.00 paid out for drainage purposes in Sac county for a single year, and it was money well expended, as it has reclaimed thousands of acres of fertile land, besides materially increasing the agricultural and commercial value of much more, indirectly.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE BAR OF SAC COUNTY.

By Charles D. Goldsmith.

With but one or two exceptions, the attorneys who have practiced in Sac county came from other states or other parts of our own state. The bar, as a whole, has been, comparatively speaking, a strong one. Of course, here, as elsewhere, there has been much abuse of the law and the lawyers; but, candidly, would not the abolition of both spell chaos? A community without lawyers would be a community without order, without government, without progress, peace, stability or happiness.

To be sure, lawyers are not all high-minded men, but neither are all those who follow other walks of life. A lawyer is much like his fellows, whatever their occupation. He is subject to the same environment; the same temptations, the same inexorable sway of demand and supply, and if he sometimes stoops to the mire, the dishonest client will be found upon his shoulders, bearing him down in the filth. The lawyer is no better and no worse than men in other lines of work, but he is a necessity. Blot out the law and the lawyers, and civilization dies with them. The standing of the bar is high today, but, as in all human affairs, there is room for improvement. However, it is gratifying to know that its character is certainly being elevated to a higher plane.

### THE FIRST LAWYER IN SAC CITY.

John T. Alexander was Sac county's first lawyer. He located at Sac City in 1868, having before been in the practice at Vinton, Benton county, this state, where he had served the judicial district in which Benton county was embraced, as district attorney. He was not what is called a "case lawyer," but was well grounded in the fundamental principles of the law. It was his intention to discontinue the practice upon his removal to Sac county. He found it difficult to do this, and for a while took part in the small amount of court work which came up at the time in the county. "Uncle John" was a gentleman in every sense of the word, kind and considerate of

every one. After a few years, he retired and lived loved and respected by all until his death, in 1882.

Eli R. Chase settled at Sac City in 1869, removing from Wausau, Wisconsin, where he had been a prominent lawyer and citizen for many years. He served upon the board of supervisors of the county. He was a lawyer of much ability and strength of character. The law business of the county at this time was of such meager proportions that it was not inviting, and in 1875 he removed to California.

Hon. Ed. R. Duffie came to Sac City in 1870 and shortly afterwards formed a partnership with Eli R. Chase, the firm being Chase & Duffie. He served as a member of the board of supervisors and was county treasurer, was afterwards elected to the Legislature, and later became judge of the fourteenth judicial district. Representing the county in the Legislature, he was without doubt the best equipped and ablest member the county has ever had. After serving upon the bench eight years, he retired to the practice at Sac City. He outgrew the practice here and removed to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1883. For several years he served as a commissioner of the supreme court. Retiring from that position, he removed from Omaha to Scott's Bluffs, Nebraska, and became a member of the firm of Wright & Duffie and continued to practice until the year 1913. His health then failed him and he went to California, hoping to find a climate beneficial, but died shortly after reaching there.

Hon. S. M. Elwood, formerly of Tama county, Iowa, and S. E. Stanfield formed a partnership to practice law and located during the year 1876, and as a firm practiced until 1879, when it dissolved and Mr. Stanfield removed to Odebolt. Mr. Elwood then formed a partnership with Levi Davis, the firm being known as Davis & Elwood. This firm afterward dissolved and Mr. Davis removed to Montana. Mr. Elwood continued in the practice and in the fall of 1895 was elected to the district judgeship of the sixteenth judicial district and occupied the bench for eight years. After retiring from that position he resumed practice. He is a good lawyer and the most plausible of gentlemen.

Mr. Stanfield, as before stated, removed to Odebolt, where he continued to reside and practice law for a few years, and then removed to Ida Grove, in Ida county, where he practiced until his death, a few years later.

D. E. Voris and L. Wheaton, two young men of good native ability, located at Sac City in 1876 and remained a few years. Mr. Voris afterward removed to Marion, where he has since continued in a very successful prac-



tice. Mr. Wheaton removed to Lincoln, Nebraska, and died after remaining in practice a few years.

D. J. McDaid commenced the practice of law at Sac City in 1881, and very soon afterwards received an appointment to a judicial position in Indian Territory, after the expiration of which he removed to West Virginia.

W. H. Hart commenced the practice of law in Sac City in 1880. In 1885 the partnership of Goldsmith & Hart was formed, of which Mr. Hart was a member until 1889, when Mr. Goldsmith was appointed by Governor Boies to fill the vacancy on the district bench caused by the resignation of Judge J. H. Macomber. Mr. Hart has filled the office of county attorney for two terms. In this office he was safe and reliable and no one performed the duties of that office better to the satisfaction of the people. He now ranks among the leading lawyers of the county.

J. H. Tait first located at Wall Lake, in this county, in 1879, as the junior member of the firm of Edson & Tait. The firm continued in the practice a few years and dissolved. Mr. Tait removed to Schaller and continued in the practice until he was elected county attorney, when he removed to Sac City. During his incumbency of that office he formed a partnership with W. Jackson, which partnership existed until his death, in 1913. He was one of the lawyers who forged his way to the front and was quite prominent in the politics of the county.

William Jackson has long been numbered among the trustworthy members of the Sac county bar. His specialty has been that of an abstracter and real estate lawyer. He attended to that branch of the practice of the firm of Tait & Jackson, while Mr. Tait gave his attention to such litigation as came into the hands of the firm.

R. L. McCord located here in 1908 and since has been appointed and elected two terms as county attorney. Upon the expiration of his last term he engaged in general practice. He is possessed of good ability, much industry and holds the esteem of all in this county.

Malcolm Currie, having held the office of sheriff of Sac county, took his examination and was admitted to the bar in 1910, since which time he has been elected county attorney, an office he now holds. Still young in the practice, his energy and industry is fast leading him to the front.

J. B. Tourgee located in Sac City in 1913 and formed a partnership with S. M. Elwood. He is being known as a careful and industrious young man, possessed of studious habits that are sure to give him high rank in his profession.

## THOSE PRACTICING IN 1914.

A list of those practicing in Sac City in 1914 includes the following, as they rank with age: Charles D. Goldsmith, S. M. Elwood, William Jackson, W. H. Hart, R. L. McCord, Malcom Currie, J. B. Tourgee. There are many more, who have come and gone, but their sojourn has been so short and uneventful that it can hardly be said that they should be considered as members of this bar.

## IN OTHER TOWNS OF THE COUNTY.

Ed. Hatch commenced the practice of law at Grant City in 1875. One would be authorized in saying that no young man has appeared at the Sac county bar with more natural ability and better presence than he. He was genial, eloquent and quick to see a point in litigation. He grew boastful and dissolute and at a time when he should have been meeting with a success rightfully due him and within his reach, he was murdered by brawling associates.

The firm of Zane & Helsell located at Odebolt in 1878 and was composed of John M. Zane, who made a specialty of making abstracts and law connected therewith, and W. A. Helsell, who did the court work and attended to the general litigation. Mr. Zane afterwards removed to Sac City and continued in abstracting work for a time, and then removed to Des Moines, where he engaged in the insurance business. Mr. Helsell continued in practice at Odebolt and has since remained there, and, while a few others have come and gone from Odebolt with little success, Mr. Helsell has built up a remunerative practice which he still enjoys. He is the only lawyer now in Odebolt. Among others who have at times been members of the bar at Odebolt, C. E. George and Del Coy should be mentioned. Mr. George was a young man, well educated and had he possessed stability of character could, it would seem, have reached a high rank in his profession. Being ambitious to enter a larger field he removed to Chicago. His career in Odebolt was not a brilliant one. Mr. Coy, while somewhat successful at Odebolt, after a few years removed to Pierre, South Dakota, where he was elected to the office of clerk of the courts. He filled this office and practiced his profession for a few years and died. He was a man of excellent character and respected by all.

R. M. Hunter was a member of the bar residing at Wall Lake for a number of years. He was a good lawyer, neighbor and citizen, and while there he was elected county attorney and made an excellent official. Soon

afterward he removed to Sibley, Iowa, where he met with success in his practice and there died. During his practice he accumulated considerable property. Another attorney at Wall Lake was S. E. Stanfield, now of Rockwell City, who was for a time a partner of Judge Elwood, in Sac City. A. B. Barclay, a young lawyer of much ability, a clean, loveable man, located at Wall Lake in 1900. He had held the office of county attorney one term and part of another, when, in 1908, he moved to Jerome, Idaho, where he took up the practice. Wall Lake now has but one lawyer, E. S. Whitney, who recently entered the profession. He is a young man with good ambitions and appearances. His geniality and manner appeals to all and there is little doubt that he will meet with success.

Besides the members of the bar in Sac county named by Mr. Goldsmith there should also be mentioned the following:

Charles D. Goldsmith is the oldest resident attorney at Sac City with the exception of S. M. Elwood. He has been practicing in Sac and adjoining counties since the latter part of the seventies, except during the time he was upon the bench of the district court of this district. He was selected by Governor Horace Boies to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Macomber, of Ida Grove, and was also elected to succeed himself at the election, though a Democrat in politics and in a Republican district. He has been and is one of the most successful practitioners in this part of the state, having a large clientage. He has always been a very aggressive lawyer and stands high in his chosen profession. He was admitted to the bar in the state of New York, came west to Webster City, Iowa, then to Newell, in Buena Vista county, and finally to Sac City, where he has since remained. He stands high in this community as a citizen as well as lawyer and counselor.

About 1880 A. B. Mason began the practice of law in Sac City and a few years later was joined by E. G. Thomas, the firm being then known as Mason & Thomas. The partnership continued for some years, when it was dissolved, E. G. Thomas going to Omaha and later to Chicago and then to his former home in Indiana, where he died. A. B. Mason continued in Sac City until his death, some years later.

J. Koder came to Sac City about 1882 and engaged in the practice of law for a short time only. He was editor of the paper known as *The Democrat* for a while and moved to Omaha, where he engaged in legal work again.

Miles W. Newby began the practice of law here, in the office of S. M. Elwood, in the nineties. He was elected county attorney of Sac county for two terms, and soon after his last term expired he moved to Onawa, where he now lives and is actively in the practice. He was a conscientious young lawyer and a hard worker.

## CHAPTER VII.

### MEDICAL HISTORY OF SAC COUNTY.

By Z. Fuller, M. D.

The first physician, Doctor Bence, arrived in the frontier hamlet of Sac City in 1856, but remained only a short time.

The next physician, Doctor Rising, came the next year, 1857, and remained about five years, and then removed from Sac City to Grant City, Sac county, where he died and was buried.

The next physician was Dr. Frank Stiles, who located in Sac City in 1858 or 1859, remaining perhaps ten years, part of this time being at Twin Lakes, Calhoun county. In the late sixties he ran a general merchandise business in Sac City.

Dr. R. G. Platt, a brother of Asa Platt, came in 1868, locating in Sac City. Doctor Platt remained five or six years, but, being in poor health, was unable to endure the hardships incident to the practice of medicine in a pioneer community, and therefore moved to Hillsdale, Michigan.

Dr. A. T. Brenton was the next physician to locate in Sac county, coming to Sac City in 1869, where he remained in active practice almost continuously for more than thirty years, the first medical man to identify himself permanently with the community. A more extended biographical mention of Doctor Brenton will be found at another place in this chapter.

Since the time of Dr. Brenton's arrival and up to the present (1914) many physicians have, from time to time, located in Sac City and at other points in the county, a good many remaining for only a brief period, hardly long enough to warrant more than noting the date of their arrival, where the latter can be ascertained. Those remaining a longer time, long enough to warrant being considered permanent citizens, will have more extended biographical sketches in the following pages.

Perhaps no class of people in any pioneer country sees more of hardship and the strenuous life than does the physician. The homes of the pioneers were widely scattered over the desolate prairies, necessitating long and tiresome—and sometimes dangerous—drives, usually on horseback in all kinds of weather in their professional ministrations. And for such services the doc-

tor's pay was often in the form of the possessions which are at least reasonably satisfactory, earning as well the genuine gratitude and respect of the communities in which they have labored.

The writer had a share in some of these experiences during the later pioneer days, many of which he looks back on with pleasure and no small degree of satisfaction, not the least of which comes from seeing a good many of those pioneers of the strenuous years now in comfortable homes and in possession of every other reasonable need for their declining years. All of which seems a fair compensation for the struggle of those early days. Returning now to the personal history of some of Sac county's physicians, it may be said that:

Andrew Thomas Brenton was born in Johnson county, Indiana, September 15, 1848, and came by covered wagon, with his parents, to Dallas county, Iowa, in the fall of 1853, when but five years of age. Of the ancestry it may be said that the father, James Baird Brenton, was born in Kentucky. He was the son of Rev. Henry Brenton and Esther Baird and the grandson of Major James Brenton and Mary Woodfield. Major James Brenton served during the Revolutionary War from Virginia. His commission as major, signed by Governor Patrick Henry, of Virginia, is in the family and very highly prized.

His mother was Elizabeth Glenn, daughter of Archibald Glenn and Lydia Rhodes, granddaughter of Archibald Glenn, Sr., and Sarah Furgason and Jacob Rhodes and Elizabeth Furlow, and great-granddaughter of Robert Furlow, and Kittie McGuire. Archibald, Sr., came to America from Scotland in 1770. He served from Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War, as did Jacob Rhodes and Robert Furlow from Virginia. With such Revolutionary ancestry, one would not wonder that Doctor Brenton was one of the most patriotic citizens.

The Doctor received his early education in the district schools, and later in the Adel schools. He read medicine with his father and attended the Medical College of Keokuk, Iowa, and later took a post-graduate course in St. Louis. He married Harriett Ella Wright, and they had four children, Glencora, Maude, Fay and Max. He practiced medicine at Dallas Center, Iowa, one year and then located at Sac City, Iowa, in the fall of 1871. Notwithstanding the wild prairie country, the unbridged streams, bad roads and dark stormy nights, the Doctor never let these things prevent him from answering the calls of suffering humanity. He frequently took his gun and dog along and, in season, killed many prairie chickens on his trips.

Doctor Brenton was the first physician to become permanently identified

with the county in its pioneer days, locating as he did in 1871. For more than thirty years he was continuously engaged in practice. For a large part of his time his practice extended over a wide range of territory, frequently into the adjacent counties. During the more active period of his life he doubtless had the most extensive clientele of any physician who has ever practiced in this county. This, being in the days of riding horses, meant almost continuous riding, night and day, sometimes for weeks together. But during all those strenuous years of widely scattered practice, in storm and snow and mud, he faithfully ministered to the people, a highly useful and much appreciated citizen.

Doctor Brenton did his work with energy and enthusiasm; he was in love with his work, giving always of the best that was in him and without regard to rank and station. He was a man of more than ordinary native ability, of excellent judgment in his professional work; quick to see the essentials and the main points in a case, and resourceful in treatment. The writer was twice associated with him in practice, and was many times with him in consultations, and this experience fully warrants the above statements.

Doctor Brenton was of quick wit and possessed a keen sense of humor. He enjoyed a good story, either as a listener or raconteur; and not a little wide popularity came from these qualities—qualities which are also at times invaluable at the bed side of the sick. In his later years he greatly enjoyed recalling from the rich fund of his pioneer experiences those incidents particularly which had an element of humor and drollery with which he would entertain his listeners. Of such, he had acquired a large collection, which, with his natural wit and humor, made him an entertaining talker. Not a few good stories about the Doctor are still current among the "old-timers," and a sketch without any of these would hardly seem fitting, which perhaps is sufficient warrant for the following:

During the latter part of the Doctor's practice, when not a few of the early settlers had become well-to-do, one of the latter, becoming seriously sick, summoned the Doctor, who, when he visited the patient insisted that he should remain with him continuously until he "was out of danger." This the Doctor was reluctant to do, as it was a busy season and to give his entire time to a single patient meant considerable loss to himself, not to mention the inconvenience or worse to others of his patrons. When this was intimated to the wealthy patient, he remarked that the Doctor "wouldn't lose anything" and that there were other doctors whom the people could employ. The Doctor finally consented, and henceforth for about ten days remained in the patient's house, giving him his exclusive professional attention. When the sick man



was at last convalescent and the Doctor announced that his services were no longer needed, the grateful patient asked for the amount of his bill that he might show his gratitude by prompt payment. The Doctor answered that his bill was four hundred and ninety-nine dollars, which amount seemed so large that the gentleman remonstrated, to which the Doctor exclaimed that during so busy a season he might have lost even a larger amount than this from other practice, remarking that the "exclusive services of a busy doctor" come high. But the wealthy patient still remonstrated, expressing his unwillingness and finally his positive refusal to pay such an exorbitant bill, to which the Doctor replied that "God has made you able and I will make you willing to pay that bill," and, getting into his buggy, started to drive off, but he was recalled and his bill was paid. When someone later asked the Doctor why he had not made the fee an even five hundred dollars, he dryly answered that "Five hundred dollars would have been too much."

Doctor Brenton was a steadfast Republican, all his life taking an active interest in political matters, both local and general, but never showing any desire for office himself, his whole practical interest being centered in his profession. He was a member of the Masonic order, having membership in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery at Sac City.

During the last dozen years or more of his life, Doctor Brenton spent the winter seasons in Florida. His health had failed and he could no longer stand the rigors of the Northern winters. The last two or three years he remained in the South continuously at the home of his daughter. He died October 26, 1912, at Havelock, Iowa, in the home of his son Max, whose sick wife the Doctor had come north to attend professionally.

Doctor Brenton was twice married, first to Harriett Ellen Wright, in Dallas county, Iowa, to whom were born two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Brenton died in Florida in the winter of 1895. His second wife, to whom he was married in 1898, was Mrs. Sarah E. Allen, widow of a Sac City pioneer, who survives him.

Being human, very human, Doctor Brenton had faults, his most serious faults, however, making him "his own worst enemy," and it would seem that generosity should restrain comment here at length, remembering rather the many good traits and the valuable service he rendered this community for so many years.

Thomas Browning Mansfield, M. D., was born in Unionport, Jefferson county, Ohio, June 15, 1844, where he lived until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, at the age of seventeen years, he enlisted in the Fifty-second Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Dan McCook, serving therein



until mustered out at the close of the war. This young soldier showed special aptitude for nursing and otherwise caring for the sick and wounded, and was early assigned to the hospital corps where he remained throughout the service. This experience led him to decide to adopt the profession of medicine as his life work. At the close of the war he entered Harlen College, from which he was graduated in 1867, after which he taught school for some years, utilizing every spare moment in the study of medicine under the guidance of two physicians. Later he engaged in the drug business, at Smithfield, Ohio, in connection with Doctor Clancy of that place, afterward attending Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, from which he was graduated.

Doctor Mansfield commenced the practice of medicine at Jefferson, Greene county, Iowa, in 1873. A year or two later, having occasion to be in Sac City, he became so favorably impressed with the place that he removed there in 1875. Throughout all the remainder of his life there was no other place so dear as Sac City and surroundings. Here nearly all the remainder of his life was spent, although circumstances led to his absence at times for considerable periods. On September 30, 1879, he was married to Cornelia Kate Taylor, a daughter of Samuel C. and Jane H. Taylor, pioneer residents of Cedar township, Sac county. In 1892, because of his wife's failing health, he removed to Denver, Colorado, where they remained about two years. From there they moved to Harrison county, Ohio, to care for his aged parents, where they remained until the death of his father in 1900. The Doctor and his wife then returned to Sac City where he resumed his practice. His wife's failing health induced him to remove to California in 1906. They located first at Ocean Park, but later went to the Sierra Nevada mountains, near Yosemite Park, but returned to Ocean Park in September, 1909, where he died of apoplexy, February 11, 1910. His widow survives him (1914) and lives at Ocean Grove, California. They had no children.

In the words of her who perhaps knew Doctor Mansfield best, "He was a man of fine presence and generous to a fault in his professional life. The qualities of character which were fundamental in him, led him to the places where the work was hardest, the strain heaviest, the need greatest. It was a part of his very nature to help the poor, to relieve the distress of those who had little with which to repay him. Doctor Mansfield was genial, generous, and had many and steadfast friends in the community where he so long labored, having an extensive practice during all the years of his residence here."

In politics, Doctor Mansfield was a life-long and steadfast Republican and was at various times honored with positions of trust and responsibility.

The one which he, perhaps, prized the highest, was as a member of pension examining boards, which he held in Iowa for more than twenty-five years, during Democratic as well as Republican administrations. He was also a member of an examining board during his residence in Harrison county, Ohio.

Doctor Mansfield was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and also a member of the Methodist church.

Doctor William Warren came to Sac county in 1870, settling on land in section 17, in Boyer Valley township, where he henceforward lived for thirty years, managing his farm and also serving as physician in the surrounding community. During the pioneer days, especially when physicians were few and far apart, Doctor Warren's professional services were much in demand, without which the pioneers should have been obliged to depend for such services upon physicians much farther away—Sac City, Storm Lake and Ida Grove—which in those days, before telephones and automobiles, would have necessitated travel of from twelve to twenty miles, usually on horseback. To have a physician in their midst was certainly a great convenience to that rather isolated Boyer Valley community, which was well appreciated, and Doctor Warren had an extensive practice. Doctor Warren was born in Rutland county, Vermont, December 29, 1817. When he was thirteen years old his parents removed to Genesee county, New York, remained two years, then to Orleans county and later to Niagara county. At the age of about twenty-one years young Warren commenced the study of medicine with Doctor Pratt, of Somerset, New York. In 1857 he came west, locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he remained three or four years, then to Dodge county, coming from there to Sac county, Iowa, where he remained until his death, June 20, 1901.

B. F. Stevens, M. D., was born in Montrose, Pennsylvania, where he lived until fourteen years of age, when he came with his parents to Illinois, settling near Elgin. He remained there until he came to Sac county in 1871, settling in Levey township, on section 21, where he resided about ten years, then removed to Odebolt where he died in 1891.

Doctor Stevens was graduated from Bennett Medical College, Chicago, in 1869, and practiced about two years before coming to Iowa. He wished to abandon practice, but several of his Illinois neighbors settling near him in Levey township, being remote from other doctors in the early days, they naturally called upon him for professional services. He was thus called upon so frequently that he became actively engaged in practice, having little or no time left for the business of farming, to which he had intended to devote his entire attention on coming to Sac county. After about ten years' residence

on his farm, he removed to Odebolt, where he was engaged in the practice until his death, March 20, 1891.

Doctor Stevens' eldest son, A. E. Stevens, also took up the study of medicine and was graduated from the same college as his father (Bennett) about 1878. He located at Wall Lake, where he was in practice about two years, then removed to Odebolt, where he practiced with his father for a time, removing to Malino, Florida, and there practiced until his death in 1908.

J. W. Cannon, M. D., was among the pioneer physicians of Sac county, who located in Grant City, October 12, 1874, where he remained in practice until October, 1883. Doctor Cannon was born in Carthage, Illinois, April 15, 1849, graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa, June 17, 1873. He also attended lectures at the same college during the winter of 1876, and in 1889 did post-graduate work at the Post-Graduate College and Hospital of New York City. During his residence in Grant City, Doctor Cannon was married to Jennie Dobson, a daughter of one of the most estimable Sac county families. After his removal from this county, he was engaged in practice, for a time, in Atlantic, Cass county, Iowa, from whence he removed to Canyon City, Colorado, on account of his wife's health. Later he removed to Boise, Idaho, where he is now located.

Dr. W. S. Duncan, came first to Sac City, July 3, 1874, remaining perhaps a year or so, was elsewhere four years, and then returned in 1878, remaining several years and acquiring a considerable practice. He received his medical education at the Cincinnati Medical College and Eclectic Institution (now extinct). Doctor Duncan possessed considerable natural ability, as well as professional skill. During his later residence here he became interested in the profession of law, and read law for a time with a thought of changing to that profession, but that was never done, so far as known to the writer. He left Sac City sometime in the eighties and located in Sheldon, Iowa.

D. C. Cook, M. D., located in what was then Fletcher (now Lake View) in 1881, being associated with L. A. Chapman in a drug store at that place. He received his preparatory education at Mount Vernon, Iowa, and was graduated from the medical department of the Iowa State University in March, 1873. He commenced practice at Calamus, Iowa, from whence he removed to Sac county, and remained several years.

Caleb Brown, M. D., was born January 27, 1850, on a farm in Knox county, Ohio, where his boyhood was passed. He received his early education in the common schools of the state and from a private tutor, who gave



HOSPITAL AT ODEBOLT



him instruction in Latin. In 1870, he came with his parents to Iowa, where the first year he was engaged in teaching school; the next year he entered the Iowa State University in the classical department. While so engaged, he began the study of medicine, entering the medical department of the university in September, 1874. He received his degree in medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa, in 1877. For two years, beginning in September, 1892, he held the chair of chemistry, toxicology and microscopy in that college, but resigned that position on account of interference with other professional work. A part of two years he spent in post-graduate work in Chicago. He was a member of the Northwestern Iowa Medical Society, the Medical Society of the State of Iowa, the American Medical Association, the International Association of Railway Surgeons, and in 1894 was elected a member of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association, of which he was made second vice-president in 1897. He was an active worker in all these societies, having prepared and read papers of merit before each of them at various times, having special interest in electro-therapeutics, some of the papers prepared by him in this latter eliciting very favorable comment, from men of note in this specialty. Doctor Brown held the position of local surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern railway for several years preceding his death; had been health officer of Sac City; had been county coroner, and was a trustee of the Sac City Collegiate Institute, in which he was lecturer on physiology and chemistry. He took not only an active interest in this but in all other educational matters. He was a member of the United States pension examining board for this district. Doctor Brown located in Sac City, 1882, where the remainder of his life was spent in active practice of his profession. On November 7, 1884, he was married to Elizabeth Prindle Baxter, who survives him. They had no children. Five weeks before his death, the Doctor was attacked by pneumonia and, his vitality being a good deal reduced by overwork and his general health having been somewhat impaired during several weeks preceding, there was apprehension from the first as to the result. The attack proved to be comparatively mild, however, but during convalescence catarrhal jaundice supervened, then gastritis and other complications resulting in death, June 4, 1899.

Doctor Brown was a man of marked ability, a close student and a hard-working practitioner, keeping fully abreast of the advancement of his profession; a man of the strictest honor and integrity, with an active interest in all that is good and right; a gentleman in the best sense of the word; a valued and much appreciated citizen of the community. He had a wide ac-

quaintance with many fast friends and an extensive practice. He had good business ability, an attribute lacking in most physicians. During the later years of his life he owned and conducted a drug store in Sac City, which was a profitable business. He acquired considerable means, all of which was invested in Sac City property.

#### SURGICAL WORK IN THE COUNTY.

Like most similar communities having no hospital facilities, very little major surgical work has been done in Sac county, excepting such as comes under the head of emergency surgery, of which there has been perhaps about the usual amount, though not large, incident to communities almost wholly agricultural. When such emergencies have arisen they have been met and such service rendered as was possible by general practitioners. They have necessarily done a very wide range of surgical and medical work, anything which came in the line of duty, and usually with creditable success, and in some cases with results that were really brilliant.

Such other surgical procedures as needed hospital facilities for their proper care have been sent away, a good deal of such work going to Dr. A. L. Wright, of Carroll, Iowa, who established a small private hospital at that place about 1893. His hospital was later superseded by St. Anthony's, a general public hospital, where Doctor Wright continued to do his surgical work during the remainder of his life. A good deal of such work has been sent to Chicago, Des Moines, Omaha and Rochester, Minnesota. At the present, probably the most of it is going to Des Moines; some of it, chiefly from the western part of the county, going to Doctor Crane's hospital which was established at Ida Grove, and later moved to Odebolt. Doctor Speaker, at Lake View, recently fitted up some hospital facilities in connection with his office, where some surgical work is being done. Doctor McCray, of Schaller, is doing more surgical work, perhaps, than is usual with general practitioners having no hospital facilities. He operates at patient's homes for appendicitis, as well as doing some other major surgical operations. But the medical men in this county generally hold to the common opinion that, aside from minor and emergency surgery, it is usually preferable and more satisfactory to send surgical cases to surgeons of special training and experience doing their work in the general hospitals of the larger cities.

The following is a list of physicians, of various schools of medicine who have registered under the state law of 1885, in and for Sac county:



Adams, Charles B., Sac City, born in New York, graduated Cleveland, Ohio, certified in this county December, 1886, eight years in practice.

Andre, T. J., Schaller, born in Ohio, graduated at Rush Medical, certified here December, 1886, four years in practice when coming here.

Acres, Lois F., (homeopathic) Sac City, born Pennsylvania, graduate of Chicago Homeopathic College.

Brown, Caleb, Sac City, born in Ohio, certified here September, 1886, nine years in practice when he came here.

Brenton, Thomas Andrew, born Indiana, certified April, 1887, eighteen years in practice before coming here.

Berry, Joseph P., Auburn, born Illinois, certified May, 1891.

Brookhart, Edward W., (eclectic) Ulmer, certified April, 1906.

Behrens, George W., born Illinois, certified here 1911, graduate of the Chicago Medical College.

Blackstone, Bigelow P., (homeopathic) born Iowa, certified here May, 1899, graduate of Iowa State University.

Duvall, W. H., Schaller, born Kentucky, certified August, 1886, in practice at time of coming here nine years.

Dunkelburg, B. C., (regular) Schaller, born New York, graduate of University of New York, certified 1889.

Dobson, William C., Sac City, born in New Jersey, certified April, 1910, when four years in practice.

Duncan, William Cass, (regular) Sac City, born Wisconsin, certified November, 1898, graduate of Iowa State University—medical department—in practice fourteen years when he came here.

Denny, B. F., Nemaha, born Missouri, certified October, 1909.

Francis, William H., Sac City, born Ireland, certified 1886, in practice at time of coming twenty-six years.

Farquhar, Thomas, (regular) Early, born Pennsylvania, eighteen years in practice at date of coming here.

Fuller, Z., (regular) Sac City, born Indiana, certified here March, 1876, eleven years practice before coming here.

Farquhar, Elwood M., (regular) Early, born Pennsylvania, certified May, 1897, graduate of Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Findley, William John Kennedy, Sac City, born Iowa, certified May, 1904, graduate Chicago Medical College. five years in practice when he came.

Graham, J. W., (regular) Early, born Iowa, certified November, 1886, six years in practice at date of coming here.

Groman, August, Odebolt, born Indiana, certified here July, 1887, graduate of Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, in practice eight years when he came here.

Gannon, W. L. (eclectic) Grant City, born New Jersey, certified September, 1886, graduate of Bennett Medical College, Chicago, in practice twenty-seven years at date of coming here.

Gibson, George G., (regular) Odebolt, born Ohio, certified May, 1898, graduate Iowa College Physicians and Surgeons, Des Moines.

George, Albert B., (regular) Lake View, born Illinois, certified May, 1890.

Gregg, Orion Russell, (regular) Nemaha, born Iowa, certified July, 1908, graduate of Kansas City Medical College.

Green, Loren, (osteopath) Sac City, born in Wisconsin, certified August, 1912, graduate of Still College, Des Moines.

Hopkins, Christopher M., (regular) Wall Lake, born Illinois, certified January, 1887, graduate of Chicago Medical College, eleven years in practice at date of coming here.

Higgins, J. W., (regular) Grant City, born in Vermont, certified here January, 1887, in practice nine years.

Hall, A. A., (regular) Odebolt, born Iowa, certified July, 1889, twelve years in practice then.

Hayden, A. S., (homeopath) Wall Lake, born Illinois, certified May, 1894.

Hendricks, J. M., (osteopathy) Sac City, born Missouri, certified August, 1902, now in Woodbine, Iowa.

Iwerson, J. C., (regular) Early, certified October, 1904, graduate of University of Nebraska, six years in the practice at date of his coming here.

Johnson, Frank S., Odebolt, born Iowa, certified here May, 1887, graduate Iowa State University, in practice at date of coming here eleven years.

Lanyon, William H., (regular) Wall Lake, born in England, certified August, 1894, graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago; in practice fifteen years at time of coming here.

Mansfield, Thomas B., (regular) Sac City, born in Ohio, certified here December, 1886, graduate of Medical College of Cincinnati, Ohio, sixteen years in practice at date of his coming here.

Maker, Louis G., (regular) Sac City, born in Iowa, certified May, 1897, graduate Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons.

McCrary, Frank H., (regular) Schaller, born Iowa, certified May, 1897.

graduate of Sioux City College of Medicine, one year in practice when he came here.

Mereness, H. D., (regular) Carnarvon, born in Iowa, certified May, 1898, graduate of Iowa State University.

Pierce, Edward F., (regular) born Pennsylvania, certified 1889, graduate of Iowa State University.

Presnell, James F., (regular) Lake View, born Iowa, certified May, 1894, graduate Iowa State University, seven years in practice at date of coming here.

Petersmeyer, William, (regular) Odebolt, born in United States, certified May, 1898, graduate of College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago.

Ray, Newton D., (regular) Lake View, born Illinois, certified here May, 1889, graduate of Iowa State University, seven years in practice.

Roberts, Thomas G., (osteopath) Odebolt, born Iowa, certified here July, 1911, graduate Still College, Des Moines.

Stevens, Allen E., (eclectic) Odebolt, born Illinois, certified here December, 1886, graduate of Bennett Eclectic College, Chicago, eight years in practice when he came here.

Stevens, Benjamin, (eclectic) Odebolt, born Pennsylvania, certified December, 1886, graduate Bennett Eclectic College, Chicago, seventeen years in practice at date of coming here.

Sitzer, George D., (regular) Sac City, born New York, certified June, 1887, graduate of Iowa and New York State Universities, eleven years in practice when coming here.

Stalford, John H., (regular) Sac City, born in Iowa, certified here May, 1892, graduated at Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, in practice two years at date of coming here.

Slemmons, William T., (regular) Odebolt, born Iowa, certified June, 1893, graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, thirteen years in practice at date of coming here.

Speaker, E. E., (homeopathy) Lake View, born in Illinois, graduate Iowa State University.

Selby, I. Milton, Odebolt, born in Ohio, fifteen years in practice when coming here.

Stensgaard, N. C. J., born in Denmark, certified December, 1898, graduate Keokuk Medical College, four years in practice when he came here.

Sebern, Richard C., Odebolt, born Iowa, certified July, 1904, graduate Iowa State University.

Shaffer, Raymond C., Odebolt, born in Iowa, certified July, 1912, graduate of St. Louis College of Medicine and Surgery.

Swearingen, Guy H., (regular) Sac City, born Illinois, certified July, 1911, graduate of Drake University, Des Moines.

Timm, John F., (homeopathy) Schaller, born Germany, certified here June, 1895.

Townsend, William H., (regular) Sac City, born Iowa, certified here May, 1897, graduated at Iowa State University.

Gysbert, Peter Van Marcel, (regular) Odebolt, born Iowa, certified here August, 1896, graduate of Sioux City College of Medicine.

Warren, William, (eclectic) Early, born Vermont, certified November, 1886, thirty years in practice at date of coming here.

Williams, William C., (osteopathy) Sac City, born in California, certified here June, 1901, one year in practice at date of his coming here.

Wilcutt, Clarence E., Schaller, certified 1909.

Dr. Elwood M. Farquhar, son of Dr. Thomas Farquhar, studied medicine with his father, graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, class of 1898, entered practice with his father at Early, where he remained about ten years, removing thence to Denver, Colorado, and later to some point in Nebraska.

Dr. Christopher M. Hopkins located at Wall Lake soon after the founding of the town, in the seventies, engaging in practice for a number of years, and then took up other business, retiring from active practice. He died at his home in Wall Lake about 1900.

Dr. George W. Anderson located in the new town of Nemaha June 12, 1901, where he continued in practice perhaps five or six years, then moved to Colorado.

Dr. Orin Russell Gregg located in Nemaha, July 29, 1908, but remained only a short time.

Dr. Benjamin F. Denney located in Nemaha, July 6, 1910, remained a short time.

Dr. William J. Herrick located in the new town of Lytton, June 12, 1901, and remained about four years.

Dr. David W. Wheelwright was in practice at Wall Lake a number of years, perhaps eight or ten.

Dr. William H. Williams, a young physician who had grown up in Sac county, located at Wall Lake and soon acquired a large practice, but after a few years died of appendicitis.

Dr. Newton D. Ray located at Lake View, March 4, 1898, and remained three or four years.

The following named physicians have been located at the several towns of this county at different times, in most cases for only short periods of time, and of which the writer has no further knowledge: Alfred G. Hopkins, John H. Hovenden, Peter Jauss, Samuel I. Kirby, William H. Lanyon, Ambrose M. Longel, Ray S. Leadingham, Carl P. Mueller, Charles E. Orelup, Edwin F. Price, William Petermeyer, Thomas G. Roberts, William T. Slemmons, I. M. Selby, Neils C. J. Stensgaard, Richard C. Seborn, Raymond C. Schaffer, William M. Tigner, John F. Timm, Edward W. Bookhart, J. J. Crider, Henry A. Cobb, W. H. Durall, William C. Dobson, William H. Francis, W. T. Garmon, George G. Gibson, Abel B. George, J. W. Higgins, Elijah H. Hall, Edward T. Twining, Peter Van Marel, Augustin H. Warren, William Claude, Claren E. Willcutt.

Dr. (Miss) Meta Davis, whose parents were long-time residents of Sac City, graduated at the State University about 1899, locating in Sac City the same year, for a short time associated with Dr. Adams; remained about two years, then moved to Fremont, Nebraska, where she married, gave up practice and removed to California.

Dr. (Miss) Arnot located in Nemaha about 1908, remained two years and returned to Chicago.

Dr. George W. Behrens, of Nemaha, this county, was born October 16, 1883, in Chicago, Illinois, eldest son of Henry A. and Nathalie Behrens, both natives of Cook county (Chicago), Illinois. The Doctor's early education was obtained in the Chicago public schools. He was a member of the Bancroft school and class of 1902, Northwest Division high school. He then entered Valparaiso University (Indiana) as a medical student in 1904, and after one year's preparation entered the medical department of that university, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine in May, 1909. He received an appointment on the house staff of physicians at St. Anne's Hospital, Chicago, December, 1909, served there one year and received a St. Anne's Hospital diploma, dated December, 1910. He then engaged in the general practice in Chicago, coming to Iowa November 17, 1911, locating at Nemaha, Sac county. He was married to Rose Ellen Panzer, of Chicago, November 1, 1911.

Dr. L. H. Jones, practicing at Wall Lake, Iowa, is the son of James H. Jones and Ortha A. (McFall) Jones. He was born in Plattsville, Wisconsin, March 28, 1870, and came to Iowa with his parents in 1878, settling on a farm near Odebolt, Sac county. He graduated from the Odebolt high school

in 1889, and later attended the Upper Iowa University at Fayette, Iowa, graduating from the State University in 1894. He located at Wall Lake the year of his graduation, and has built up a lucrative practice at that place. He is a member of American Medical Association, Iowa State Medical Association, Missouri Valley Medical Association and American Railway Surgeons' Association, and is the surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern and Illinois Central railway companies.

#### THE TRANSIENTS.

This is an account of the physicians of Sac county whose stay has been brief. Of the physicians who have located in Sac county at various times in its history have remained for a variable time and then have sought other fields, the following list, while possibly not complete, includes all of whom there is any satisfactory record.

Dr. Lewis F. Akers practiced in Sac City for a time, registering August 15, 1887.

Dr. Frank S. Johnson located at Odebolt May 25, 1887, where he was engaged in practice ten years or more, removing thence to Sioux City.

Dr. George D. Sitzler registered at Sac City June 30, 1887, remaining perhaps three or four years.

Dr. Birt C. Dunkelburg located at Schaller May 31, 1889, and remained eight or ten years.

Dr. C. E. Maker located in Sac City about 1900, and after two or three years removed to Sibley, Iowa; later he retired from practice, returned to Sac City, engaged in farming a number of years, and then removed to Grimes, Iowa, where he resumed practice.

Dr. Hubert D. Mereness, who studied medicine in Sac City, graduating from the medical department of the Iowa State University about 1898, located at Sac City, but remained only a short time, removing to Carnarvon, where he remained one year or possibly longer, and then moved to some northwestern Iowa town.

Dr. James F. Presnell located at Lake View August 21, 1894, remaining from three to four years, and then received an appointment in the medical service of the United States government.

Dr. Bigelow P. Blackstone located in Sac City March 9, 1900, forming a partnership with Dr. C. B. Adams, remaining two or three years, when he removed to some town in northern Iowa. He later returned to Sac City,

practiced with Doctor Adams for about three years and then removed to Montana.

Dr. William C. Duncan located in Sac City November 24, 1903, being associated for a time with Doctor Adams; he remained about two years.

Dr. Thomas Farquhar located at Early December 29, 1886, where he remained in active practice about fifteen years, then retiring from practice, being succeeded by his son. He removed to Montana, where he died in 1913.

#### PRESENT PHYSICIANS OF THE COUNTY.

In addition to what Dr. Z. Fuller has written concerning the medical profession in this county, the following should be added. Here will be found a list of the doctors now in active practice:

Drs. Z. Fuller, Guy H. Swearengen, William H. Townsend, Charles B. Adams, William J. K. Findley, Sac City; Arthur S. Hayden, L. H. Jones, Wall Lake; John Christianson Iwerson, J. W. Graham, Early; Frank H. McCray, T. J. Andre, Schaller; Richard C. Sebern, Raymond C. Schaller, E. Thomas Crane, August Groman, Odebolt; Fred Leroy Blair, Lytton; George W. Behrens, Nemaha; also the osteopath physicians, Loren Green, Sac City, and possibly a few not identified with regular schools of medicine.

#### THE SAC COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A county society has been organized several times, the first being in the seventies, perhaps in 1878. But the number of physicians in the county were so few, and a sufficient interest was so difficult to maintain, that after a few meetings had been held, with but small attendance and little enthusiasm, interest in the matter would soon wane, and the organization would quietly die. But following the reorganization of the American Medical Association, in 1903, when membership in state and national organizations was made obligatory on membership in the county society, the county society being the unit, the present society was organized.

A meeting was called for the purpose and the organization effected in the court house at Sac City September 29, 1903. At that meeting the following physicians were present: Thomas Farquhar and J. W. Graham, of Early; W. Y. Herrick, of Lytton; F. H. McCray, of Schaller; A. T. Brenton, Z. Fuller, J. H. Stafford, W. J. Findley and W. H. Townsend, of Sac City. Dr. Thomas Farquhar was elected president; Dr. Herrick, vice-president; F.

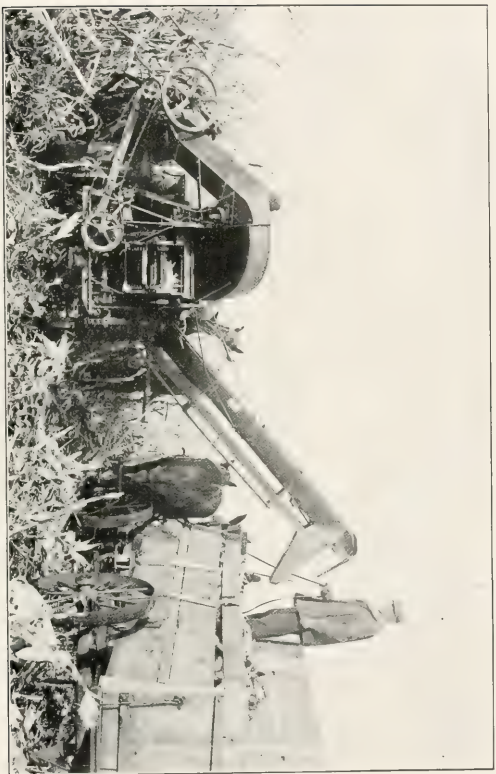


H. McCray, secretary, and Dr. Stalford, treasurer. Meetings were to be had quarterly.

Fairly regular and satisfactory meetings were held for a year or more, attendance being almost wholly by those present at organization, although considerable effort was made to secure attendance of all physicians in the county, social features being added for the purpose, but with little or no success. Meetings were later made semi-annual, still later they became irregular, until during the last three years or so there have been only annual meetings, at irregular times, with hardly more done than was really necessary to maintain the organization.

This seems to be about the common experience with county medical societies, at least in Iowa. Sufficient interest cannot be maintained to keep up an active and efficient society with so few members or regular attendants; meetings soon become monotonous when there are so few to prepare papers and take part in their discussion, with the result which seems inevitable. The fundamental fault seems to be lack of appreciation of the benefits possible from county societies; the press of personal work and difficulty in getting away from the daily grind, doubtless has much to do with the matter. Possibly plain indifference has no small part.

At the present time (1914) the officers and members of the Sac County Medical Society are as follows: President, J. C. Iwerson; secretary, F. H. McCray, of Schaller; treasurer, J. H. Stalford, Sac City; members, W. J. Findley, W. H. Townsend, Guy H. Swearingen and Z. Fuller, Sac City, and L. H. Jones, of Wall Lake.



CORN HARVESTING IN SAC COUNTY



## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURE IN SAC COUNTY.

By Orville Lee.

Webster defines evolution as the act of unfolding or unrolling; the process of growth or development. In treating this subject, I shall take occasion to note some of the beginnings, some of the first efforts and their results. I shall be privileged to record some splendid success that has attended these efforts and must needs tell of many failures that have come under my own observation, a few the results of my own labors, but many more those of the earlier pioneers in agriculture. I might here say that the earlier experiences of these pioneers was many times far from encouraging. However, there was always the one argument, "our land is good for something," that encouraged the early comer to try again. The question always uppermost in the pioneer's mind was, What shall I raise that will help supply the family need? When shall I plant, where shall I plant it, how shall I plant, as well as what shall I plant? All of these questions must be largely answered by experiment.

What about corn? No one knew that corn would produce a crop here, and it took ten or fifteen years of experimenting before that fact had been established, and even then few, if any, believed that any but the smaller varieties could be depended upon. I believe that prior to about 1870 the failures very much outnumbered the successes in corn culture. As an explanation for this result I might offer the following:

First, the soil seemed to lack the subdued character necessary for the proper development of the corn plant. It was the common belief that in order to have a corn crop the land must have been cultivated for a number of years. As I remember the early crops of corn, they would grow and grow, but very much of the time fail to ripen. This, at that time, was largely attributed to soil conditions. I can now see that the trouble may have been due to a number of causes. Seed was being introduced from many states. No one had thought of the damage that might be done from deep cultivation. In fact, no surface cultivators had been invented and prior to the year 1868 nothing but single and double-shovel cultivators had been used. No methods

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of drainage had been used or tried before this. The early stirring plow would only be called a makeshift at the present time. The gophers in the spring and the swarms of blackbirds in the fall kept the farmer busy if his own corn crop was ever to materialize. These, together with the weed pest, which was ever present and must be fought with the implements then in use, made the production of a corn crop very uncertain.

#### WHEAT.

What was true of corn was largely true of the other cultivated crops. Wheat might be classed as an exception. For, while there was no standard variety of wheat that could be depended upon, and no special method of cultivation that had proved itself superior, yet the early crops of wheat were as a rule satisfactory. True, many times the yield was only nominal, yet as a whole the wheat crop showed good returns for the labor bestowed. Among the methods of cultivation the one which provided for the breaking of the soil in early spring as conditions would admit of, was the one that best results came from. As long as unbroken sod was available, a wheat crop could be fairly well depended upon.

#### OATS.

Oats were not a reliable crop. When sown on late breaking they usually made a fair crop, but when sown on older ground that had been fall plowed, they very often lodged badly. When sown on corn stalk ground some good yields were secured. The crop of 1869 might be cited as being especially good. Many heavy yields were reported this year, and the grading of the Illinois Central railroad from Fort Dodge to Sioux City provided a good market for the crop.

#### BARLEY AND BUCKWHEAT.

These crops, with a small amount of rye, were sown about this time, all showing more or less merit as crop producers.

#### GARDEN TRUCK.

Potatoes and all kinds of garden truck did well from the very first. There were few, if any, insect pests to interfere with growth and the crops of potatoes, melons, turnips, cabbage and other garden crops were all that

could be desired. In fact, everybody had all they could use and as there was no market for anything of this kind, no one worried about the yield.

#### POPCORN.

A little popcorn has been grown ever since farming has been carried on, but not until about 1888 was there any thought of producing this crop in a commercial way. About this time, a farmer near Odebolt succeeded in producing a fine crop of popcorn from a small piece of ground, which soon led others to make experimental plantings. A few years demonstrated that Sac county soil was especially adapted to the production of the best quality of this cereal. Its production was found to be remunerative and so the industry has grown to be the greatest of the kind in the world. It has not been many years since the popcorn product of the whole world was not as large as that produced in Sac county at the present time. Mr. Colton, C. J. Cook, August Reuber and H. C. Wheeler, of Odebolt, might be mentioned as among the pioneers in this line.

#### LIVE STOCK.

So much for the cultivated crops; what about stock raising in the early history of the county? Here was a land covered with the most luxuriant grasses, which would furnish unlimited pastures during the summer months and an abundance of hay for winter feeding, a condition ideal for the herdsman. Here was a wealth of natural resources that needed only to be garnered. Why, then, should any fail to reap the harvest? The reasons were many. First, none had money with which to buy the stock; second, there were few cattle, horses or sheep to be bought anywhere in the country; third, the markets, except for breeding stock, were far away and hard to reach. The new comers furnished a good market for what few horses and cows that were for sale. The horses were little fellows, scarcely ever weighing more than twelve hundred pounds, and the cows were of questionable breeding, but were usually good milkers and brought good prices.

#### SHEEP.

The early ventures in sheep husbandry proved a losing deal. Many sheep were sent to this county immediately after the war closed. While the prices were not high as compared with the former sheep products, yet the declining

wool market, with the lack of knowledge of the business, resulted in heavy losses of flocks and made the venture a most unprofitable one.

#### HORSES.

While the horses that were first used were small, they were hardy and only wanted the infusion of some good blood to bring them up to the standard that would attract Eastern buyers. Among the first to secure some good sires might be mentioned Ed. Armstrong, T. B. Mansfield and S. T. Lewis. A. H. Hendrickson and D. H. Rowe organized a company of breeders at Sac City, while another similar company was started at Odebolt. Thomas Scott, of Early, and later D. Corsant & Sons were the leaders in draft horses. However, the change was a slow one and not until the early nineties were there any marketable horses ready to be shipped. These all found a ready market and the raising of standard bred horses has steadily grown to be one of the principal industries.

#### STOCK CATTLE.

About the year 1866 some drovers from Greene county found their way into Sac county and bought some cattle. They were for the most part four-year-old steers of the raw-boned, old-fashioned type. These were driven overland to the place of destination where they were fed. The first cattle fattened for the Chicago market were fed by Eugene Criss in 1871, and consisted of a car of work oxen that had been used by the settlers to break prairie. I remember this car of cattle as being big, fleshy fellows, and to me, a boy who had never seen such a sight, they looked "awful fat" as I saw them driven across the country to Newell, where they were shipped via Illinois Central railroad. This, I believe, marked the beginning of what has grown to be the great cattle feeding industry of today for Sac county. This venture of Mr. Criss was soon followed by others who sought to find a market for some of the corn crop which had now come to be a principal feature of the farming industry. Among other early feeders might be mentioned A. H. Hendrickson, M. S. Lee, J. O. and Asa Platt. A little later Allen and Stewart, of Marshalltown, fed a big bunch of heavy cattle on what was known as the Peck farm, in Douglass township, which was followed by a like operation by Miller and Chaney, of Newell. The latter used the feed yards on the old Hendrickson farm.



## HOG INDUSTRY.

The year 1871 and 1872 saw the beginning of what has grown to be the great hog business in a commercial way. During these years a number of droves of hogs were driven across country to Newell by different buyers. From Sac City to Newell took about three days and unless the weather conditions were favorable the losses were often heavy. Probably not necessarily so, but with the unexperienced help and sometimes too much "free spirits" many "fat backs" were left dead by the way. Prior to this time the general method had been to butcher the fat hogs during the winter and haul the dressed hogs to dealers in Cedar Falls or Des Moines. I well remember my father taking such a load on a bob-sled to Cedar Falls, during the winter of 1863. This load of dressed hogs brought one dollar and sixty-five cents per hundred weight. Among the things bought with this load of pork, I remember was a wagon which cost one hundred dollars, and a full bolt of muslin which cost sixty cents a yard. Say, how proud we all were soon after with our new home-made shirts and underwear, while that new red wagon was looked upon at that time with as much admiration as the finest automobile would be today.

## TAME GRASSES.

The spring of 1868 saw the first tame grasses sown in Sac county. Asa Platt had secured sufficient clover and timothy seed with which to sow forty acres and M. S. Lee had brought a full bag of common red clover seed from Indiana. The season proved a favorable one and the experiment proved a success. In the words of Mr. Platt: "Stock in Sac county land advanced one hundred per cent., when it had been demonstrated that clover could be raised here." While since that time there has never been a question as to the splendid possibilities of the crop, yet as late as 1875 there was scarcely more interest being taken in clover than is now shown in alfalfa.

## CREAMERY.

About the year 1877 Washington Allen started the first creamery on his farm one mile north of Sac City. This seemed to supply a much needed want. The method was to gather the milk daily from the patrons during the summer months and twice a week in the winter time. This necessitated a lot of hauling and, while it proved fairly successful, the conditions soon required

that the milk be left on the farm, which resulted in the home skimming process. This plan continued in practice until the advent of the farm separator which soon supplemented the old methods. A good beginning was made in butter production by the establishment of the creamery and farmers over the county were encouraged to engage in the dairy business to the extent that creameries were soon in operation in the county. Yet we notice that the growth of this industry was not very great, for while the number of milk cows, as shown by the census of 1885, was 9,071, as late as 1905 this number had only grown to be 13,240. There are a number of causes that have probably contributed to this, among which might be mentioned the introduction of butterine and oleomargerine about the year 1885, which took twenty years of legislative activity to bring under proper regulations so that it would not come in direct competition with honest butter. Then there was the "acre craze" that has swept over the country which seemed to fill every farmer with a desire to cultivate (or partially cultivate) the largest number of acres possible. Then there has been the easier farming methods, which required less help, whereby one man has been able to dispose of the crop through the feed yard, or by the direct market way, which would have required many more had it been fed to dairy cows.

#### ORCHARDING.

The first apples raised in Sac county were grown on a graft set in a wild crab tree by Eugene Criss in Sac City. This was about the year 1865. This achievement was followed by one of similar character by M. S. Lee on his Douglas township farm about two years later. While the apples grown were few and of very ordinary quality, yet this result encouraged the fruit-loving New Englander who had settled along the Coon river to plant some fruit trees. While many of the settlers planted a few, M. S. Lee was a leader in this line prior to 1871, when Washington Allen planted the first commercial orchard, it being a tract of ten acres, which was followed by a similar tract being planted by M. S. Lee in 1877. Mr. Lee's former plantings had comprised about four acres and had proved that such varieties as the Red June, Yellow Transparent, Red Streak, Golden Russet, Perry Russet, Willow Twig, Wine Sap and some of the other old standard varieties could be depended upon to make a crop. Lee had always insisted that this was to be a fruit country. In support of this claim he would cite the fact that all along the creek were to be found abundance of wild apples, plums, cherries, grapes,

gooseberries, currants and strawberries. So, disregarding the discouragements that were ever appearing, he kept steadily on, making use of the little knowledge he had gained by hard, actual experience until he lived to see apples in Sac county selling cheaper than potatoes. I have referred to knowledge gained by actual experience in horticulture lines. In fact there was no other source whereby one could gain a knowledge of what varieties were best to plant. Later, however, or about the year 1870, the Iowa Agricultural College, as it was then called, began to give out some suggestions that proved of great value to the fruit growers in later years. Hundreds of varieties were tested by this institution and only those that showed merit were recommended for planting. Mr. Allen made use of the information so furnished, which resulted in his making selections which proved very prolific. The Ben Davis, Jonathan, Wealthy, Tolman Sweet, Utter's Red, Dutchess, Whitney and a few others were included in his list. Since these orchards came into bearing there has never been a question as to whether apples could be grown successfully or not, but the question has been would it pay. Could a farmer afford to devote his time to fruit raising when labor spent in the production of corn and other farm crops brought such satisfactory results. What was true of apples was equally true of the other fruits.

The first planting of cherries consisted almost entirely of some variety of the Morrello family. The old English Morrello was the favorite. Experience soon demonstrated that this was of no value for this locality. When the Richmond cherry was introduced the results proved more satisfactory. In fact, among the many good cherries that have been tried, I doubt whether there has been one that has given so good satisfaction. There seemed to be no question from the first but that plums would succeed, for here were found some of the most delicious wild plums with variety ranging in season from early August to late September.

The census of 1885 gives Sac county credit for 10,663 trees and 5,032 bushels of apples gathered, while in 1904 there were \$36,000 worth of tree fruits harvested and \$6,861 of other fruits.

#### SUMMARY.

Thus in a brief way I have tried to note some of the beginnings made in the bringing of Sac county out of the wild grass state to that of a county of beautiful homes and productive fields. The task has not been an easy one, but a final part in this great work has been a pleasant one. The consciousness

that we were leaders, discoverers, proving our faith in the country by the works we were able to perform, has been an inspiration to push on to greater success.

But what of the future? Will the same measure of success attend the efforts of the coming generation as has rewarded those of the past? Yea, I verily believe they will and greater yet. And why not? A few things we have already learned and proven—many more are yet to be tried. I am aware that when comparison is made, the task of keeping pace with past achievements seems a gigantic one. But, with the improved farm equipments, the better dissemination of knowledge of farming operations, the agricultural press, experimental extension departments, with better machinery, improved seeds, drainage and better transportation facilities, I believe the coming years will see improvement equal to the best of the past. Sac county owes this to the great state of Iowa.

Along many lines we must do better than in the past. In 1880 there was raised in Sac county 1,931,335 bushels of corn from 52,649 acres, or an average of about thirty-six bushels per acre, while in 1905 we had only succeeded in producing 4,692,590 bushels of corn from 120,083 acres, or an average of about thirty-nine bushels per acre. Thus we see that it took twenty-five years to increase the average yield of corn three bushels per acre. Will the farmers of Sac county be content to do no better during the next quarter of a century, or will they insist that not only thirty-nine bushels average be produced, but that not less than fifty bushels of corn be the average crop for the whole county?

In the matter of oats we have done little better. In 1880 we cultivated 9,772 acres of oats, which produced 317,602 bushels, or an average of less than thirty-two bushels per acre, while in 1905 we harvested 51,405 acres of oats, which returned 1,834,687 bushels, making an average of about thirty-five bushels per acre. Is there a farmer who will be content to produce but thirty-five bushels of oats per acre during the coming years, or will he insist that improved seed be introduced, that the best methods of treatment for smut be adopted, that the cause and prevention of rust be discovered and the average yield of oats be brought up to the fifty-bushel mark?

In the matter of farm animals we are not doing our best, but we are making some progress. In 1880 there were 1,330 farms in Sac county, consisting of 222,948 acres, or an average of 167 acres to the farm. The number of cattle on these farms was 18,168, or an average of fourteen head to each farm, giving each head of cattle twelve acres. In 1905 there were 1,887



SAC COUNTY FAIR, AUG. 14, 1913.—GRANDSTAND AND RACE TRACK



farms, covering an area of 58,486 acres, or an average of 187 acres in each farm, which supported thirty-one cattle and giving each head of cattle about six acres. I am wondering if it will not be found profitable to maintain a head of cattle for each three acres of Sac county farm land before many years have rolled around.

And we might make many suggestions of improvement that may reasonably be expected to come, and must come, if we are to keep pace with the growing demand. This is a mighty hungry world and needs to be fed—yea, well fed! Sac county must do her part. The early settler has done his part. The progress has been slow, but the difficulties were many. Naturally a large part of the county was the home of the muskrat and water-fowl. Timber was scarce and the early means of transportation prohibited the use of coal as fuel. The matter of drainage has been solved by the introduction of tile and the steam dredge. The problem of adequate supply of water has been simplified by the well auger and drill. Fencing is no longer a serious matter, while the matter of harvesting, haying, the distribution of fertilizers and the planting of the crop has become an easy task through the introduction of improved machinery. Improved methods of road building, together with the general use of the automobile, the rural mail, the parcel post and the telephone will all tend to make farm life more pleasant and the farm a better institution for the county and state.

New varieties of crops will be grown. Alfalfa and sweet clover will be the leading forage crops. Silos will be found on almost every farm and electric power will do the work on many farms. The rural school will be the best school and the farmer's children will no longer envy the city-bred child his position.

You ask when will this all come to pass? My answer—Just as soon as the farmer finds himself; knows his position; learns that the world must look to him for better things and that a mighty responsibility rests with him.

#### AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS—FAIRS.

In Sac county, as well as in nearly all Iowa counties, the matter of conducting and keeping up annual farm exhibits, county fairs, has been one fraught with much perplexity, yet there have been numerous associations that have been instrumental in doing much good. In 1871, under a provision of the statute of Iowa, the Sac County Agricultural Society was organized. They purchased ten acres of land for fair ground purposes for the sum of five hundred dollars. The society held numerous fairs at that spot, but in



1898 it was deemed advisable to move to larger and better suited quarters, so they leased of Judge Eugene Criss twenty-five acres of land, at the same time disposing of the twenty-acre tract that had been acquired at the first location. It now became a stock company, with shares placed at ten dollars each. At the new grounds many excellent annual exhibits were had, but the society did not prosper. There was the matter of two factions, one wanting horse races and no farm exhibits and the other wanting a purely agricultural fair and not so much attention paid and money spent on the race track, the horse premiums, etc. After a long, hard struggle, the society was re-organized in 1906 as it remains today.

Touching on county fair associations in this county, the following from the files of the *Sac Sun* may throw a little historic light:

"The Sac County Agricultural Society was incorporated in 1871 and the organization expired by limitation in 1891 and the fact was not discovered until two years later, when it was duly reorganized. Among the incorporators the second time were: Messrs. W. P. and E. Drewry, H. H. Fitch, D. M. Lamoraux, C. E. Lee, A. Ingram, R. E. Colburn, D. Carr Early, Asa and J. O. Platt, S. L. Watt, E. L. Ahrens, James Fleming, D. Cordeman, S. M. Brant, James Neal and J. W. Scott. Of the first society, the members included D. Carr Early, Messrs. Platt and Watt."

The association now owns about twenty-two acres of the Judge Criss land above mentioned, having sold off some to the Chautauqua Association along the Coon river. It has a half mile track, said to be one of the finest in Iowa. The buildings and grounds are fine property and the association is free of debt and has money in its treasury. The 1914 officers are: L. E. Irwin, president; George A. Heagy, vice-president; Gus Strohmeier, secretary, and F. S. Needham, treasurer. The directors are S. L. Watt, L. E. Irwin, George Heagy, Robert Leach, D. B. Keir, George Zimmerman and C. W. Irwin.

Other sections of this county have had their fairs and annual exhibits. In the spring of 1881 the Western Iowa District Association was formed at Odebolt, and it is found in files of the newspapers that in September, 1895, it was holding its fourteenth annual exhibition. For many years this proved a decided success.

## CHAPTER IX.

### NEWSPAPERS OF SAC COUNTY.

By S. M. Stouffer.

The newspaper, along with the family doctor and the postoffice and flouring mill, are among the first evidences of a thrifty new settlement in the opening up of any new country. While it is true that the pioneers did not have the advantages the present generation has in way of literary attainments and privileges, and that daily papers and magazines were quite scarce, it was not long in any enterprising, intelligent community before there was a demand for a good county weekly paper. This need was usually supplied by some man who cast his fortunes with the common pioneer element and at once sought to build up the best interests of the community. Indeed, without such potent agencies the western Iowa counties would not have advanced in settlement and prosperity to the degree that they did. Sac county is no exception, although perhaps the weekly newspaper was supplied in most new countries sooner than in Sac county.

The following chapter will serve to show the circumstances of the founding of most all the publications within Sac county, as seen by a veteran in Iowa journalism, S. M. Stouffer of the *Sac Sun*:

The pioneer newspaper of Sac county was the *Sac Sun*, which was established at Sac City by James N. Miller in 1871. The first number was issued on July 11th, and contained an elaborate narrative of the Fourth of July festivities at Sac City that year. The settlement was yet only a small village, but it was the county seat and was looking forward to the early completion of a railroad.

The newspaper man was given a warm welcome to the town. The art of advertising, as it is now practiced, was unknown to the pioneer merchants. Nevertheless the newspaper was given a fair advertising patronage and a number of the enterprising men of the village subscribed for copies of the newspaper to send their friends in the East. It is no disparagement to others who encouraged the new enterprise to say that D. Carr Early's large real estate advertisements and generous patronage in other ways, besides his

words of encouragement, probably ranked foremost in the support of this pioneer journal.

Mr. Miller was not only a good printer but was also an unusually clever writer and, like most of the pioneer newspaper men, unhesitatingly wrote as he thought on matters personal, political or otherwise. He continued to manage the newspaper he founded until he sold it to S. E. Barnard and B. W. McKeen, publishing his valedictory on September 30, 1891.

In 1873 Mr. Miller was elected representative in the General Assembly from a district comprising several counties and, before he began his service in the Legislature, he made a trip to Pennsylvania, thus taking a vacation of four months from editorial duties, during which time Al. M. Adams, since the widely-known publisher of the *Humboldt Independent*, had charge of the *Sac Sun*.

Owing to an accumulation of outside duties, with the beginning of the fourteenth volume on July 4, 1884, Mr. Miller announced that he had taken a partner in the person of Sidney Smith, and for more than six years the newspaper was conducted under the firm name of Miller & Smith, Mr. Smith participating in the business and editorial work. On October 1, 1890, the firm name of The Sun Printing Company was adopted and this continued until the sale of the newspaper to Barnard & McKeen.

Mr. Miller was a thoroughgoing Republican, a foe of the liquor-traffic and a warm friend of the soldiers of the Civil War, in which he had seen service. The editorial policy of the newspaper was continued with little change during the ownership by Barnard & McKeen.

The *Sun* was sold by Barnard & McKeen to S. M. Stouffer, of Toledo, Iowa, and F. E. Stouffer, of Dillon, Montana, who issued their first number August 30, 1893. In their announcement the Messrs. Stouffer hinted at their intention of making the *Sac Sun* a newspaper for the whole county, gathering the news from each community and treating all communities fairly rather than to make the newspaper an advocate of any particular community in the county as opposed to another, and to this end they have worked in the building of their newspaper, the circulation of which has trebled under their management, an edition of more than three thousand copies per week having been necessary at the beginning of the year 1914.

The first eight volumes of the *Sac Sun* appeared as a seven-column folio, two pages printed at home. For three years it was published as an eight-column quarto, with four pages printed at home and four pages auxiliary. For three years it returned to the eight-column folio form. In 1890 it was

issued again as a six-column quarto, that time all printed at home, and that form was adopted by the publishers last mentioned until the erection of a new building and the enlargement of their plant, as well as the installation of a linotype machine, enabled them in 1907 to issue it as a seven-column quarto. It is now entirely printed at home and deals almost exclusively with news of local interest, together with the affairs of state and nation handled from the standpoint of local interest.

The second newspaper established at Sac City was the *Sac County Reporter*, a Greenback organ published by W. W. Yarham, the first number of which was issued October 28, 1877. Only five numbers of the paper were published at Sac City. It was found that the field was too small for two newspapers and Mr. Yarham moved his plant to Odebolt and published the first newspaper in that town, getting out a very creditable sheet.

The third newspaper published at Sac City was the *Sac County Democrat*, which was started by J. Koder, a lawyer, on September 8, 1882. Mr. Koder continued the publication of the newspaper, which he edited with no little ability, until March 25, 1887, when he sold it to the Cory Brothers, who published it with I. A. Cory as editor and manager.

On June 26, 1891, the newspaper appeared with the Democrat Publishing Company as proprietor, Cory Brothers having sold it to C. Everett Lee, who constituted the company. On October 1, 1893, Mr. Lee's nephew, Lamont Lee, became associated with him. On October 6, 1893, Lamont Lee sold his interest in the paper and it was issued with C. Everett Lee as publisher. Mr. Lee bade good-bye to his readers in the issue of January 11, 1895, he having disposed of the plant to John L. Barter. The three and one-half years of the newspaper under the management of Mr. Lee were marked by an advance in the circulation and patronage, as he was both a good printer and a ready writer.

John L. Barter, who had charge for nearly two and one-half years following Mr. Lee's retirement, proved to be an aggressive editorial writer. He obtained the newspaper in the days when the free coinage of silver was a burning question and promptly aligned himself with the Bryan wing of the Democratic party. Mr. Barter sold the Democrat plant to Bert Maxwell, a young printer from Illinois, who took charge June 18, 1897, and employed I. A. Cory as editor.

Mr. Maxwell soon tired of the field and on February 28, 1898, sold the newspaper and plant to W. M. Ward, who had been a school man in Jackson county, Iowa. The newspaper was published under the firm name of the

Ward Bros. The name of the paper was changed to *The Sac Democrat*, beginning with the issue of October 17, 1902. Mr. Ward was a vigorous writer, especially ready to take part in the discussion of local politics and educational questions, and had he been able to give close attention to the details of business he would have made a marked success.

The Wards disposed of their plant April 7, 1905, to H. H. Fitch, who associated with him in the publication of the newspaper his son, John H. Fitch, and issued the newspaper under the firm name of H. H. Fitch & Son. Owing to poor health, Mr. Fitch sold the plant on June 5, 1907, to Ross Mayhall, who at this writing, March, 1914, is continuing the publication of the newspaper and the management of its auxiliary job business with apparent success.

While, like his predecessors, Mr. Mayhall is a Democrat, he has not been disposed to pay much attention to partisan politics, and consequently was not pleased with the name borne by the newspaper, changing it with the issue of February 17, 1909, to *The Sac County Bulletin*. Mr. Mayhall equipped the office with a junior linotype machine and a better press, reduced the price to one dollar a year and issues it as a six-column quarto, all printed at home.

The first newspaper at Odebolt was the *Reporter*, published by W. W. Yarham, who moved his plant from Sac City about the first of December, 1877. Under the management of Mr. Yarham and under the management of Frank Kelley, who succeeded him, it was a Greenback newspaper. Finally the *Reporter* passed into the hands of the Bennett Brothers, who made it a live Republican sheet, but they did not find the field sufficiently profitable for two newspapers, a Democratic newspaper, first called the *Observer* and later the *Herald*, having been established in the town and published under different managements. On March 28, 1887, the Bennet Brothers sold the subscription list and plant of the *Reporter* to the publisher of the *Wall Lake Journal* and went to San Diego, California, to publish a daily newspaper.

However, Odebolt was not to be long without an aggressive Republican newspaper. In May, 1887, the first number of the *Odebolt Chronicle* was issued by William E. Hamilton, who previously had been employed in the law office of W. A. Helsell. Mr. Hamilton was a writer of ability, fearless and forceful with his pen, a shrewd planner and active mover in local political matters, and in the more than twenty-three years that he conducted the newspaper was unquestionably the most influential factor in the political affairs of Sac county. Owing to failing health, he sold his newspaper on August 1, 1910, to Frank J. Stillman, of Riceville, Iowa. Mr. Stillman also had been

in poor health, having suffered a nervous breakdown, and before he ran the paper many weeks he discovered that he could not endure the office work. He then leased the plant to John E. Chrysler, who lately had returned to Sac county from Cody, Wyoming, where he was in newspaper work, and Mr. Chrysler has continued the newspaper with exceptional ability, proving a strong business getter, an alert news gatherer and a good editorial writer. In all of its history the newspaper has been Republican in politics, with a marked progressive tendency.

It is scarcely necessary to follow the history of the various other newspaper ventures at Odebolt. After the establishment of the *Chronicle* it dominated the situation. Publishers came and went. One of the most interesting of the journalistic enterprises was the *Odebolt Record*, started as an amateur sheet by Ray Graham. The *Record* continued to grow under his management until it became a full-fledged newspaper. At the time of the sale of the *Chronicle* the publication of the *Record* also was discontinued and Mr. Graham entered into newspaper work elsewhere.

A new aspirant for honors appeared in the field on March 12, 1914; the *Odebolt News*, a Progressive newspaper, with David Phillips as editor and publisher. In his initial number Mr. Phillips stated that he had installed an outfit costing about five thousand dollars, including a monotype, a type-setting and type-casting machine, a Potter two-revolution press, a power paper cutter and other up-to-date machinery. The newspaper possesses typographical and editorial excellence and, on its merits, will make a strong appeal for support.

The first newspaper at Wall Lake was the *Journal*, established August 29, 1878, by Frank L. Dennis, of Wheatland, Iowa. It was published under a number of different owners, among them Cook & Gregg, T. J. Newburg and J. L. Kroesen. The ownership passed to T. B. Hotchkiss, of Lake City, who did not conduct it in person, but a long-distance management appeared to be unsuccessful and the newspaper went out of existence in 1890, to be succeeded very shortly afterward by the *Wall Lake Blade*, with A. L. Schultz as editor and publisher. The first number of the *Blade* was issued in December, 1890, and the paper has been published continually since. Mr. Schultz was succeeded by John H. D. Gray and Mr. Gray, after conducting it many years, sold it to F. A. Brown, formerly of the *Buena Vista Vidette* at Storm Lake. Mr. Brown sold it to W. O. Howard, who is in charge of it at this writing. Mr. Howard is an all-around newspaper man of good ability and

is giving the people of the town very good service. Politically, the *Blade* has ranged from independent to Republican. At present writing, it appears to be espousing the cause of the Progressive party from an independent standpoint.

About the middle of May, 1885, the *Schaller Gazette* was started by H. E. Moles. In the autumn of the same year the ownership of the plant passed to A. S. Bassett, of Kewanee, Illinois. The fortunes of the Schaller newspaper were somewhat doubtful until Bert Mill took charge and published it successfully as the *Star*. He sold the newspaper to Charles Brandon, who changed the name to the *Herald*. In October, 1892, W. K. Whiteside, who had been an employee of the *Sac Sun*, bought the newspaper and has conducted it ever since. It is a five-column folio and under Mr. Whiteside's management was always Republican in politics until 1912, when its publisher became affiliated with the Progressive party. Under Mr. Whiteside's management it has enjoyed a good patronage and has always been a tastefully printed little sheet.

The *Early Enterprise* was started in 1885 by E. H. McGinty, of Hardin county. McGinty did not make a success of the newspaper and he transferred it to H. W. Cory, who published it until December, 1887, when he moved the plant to Storm Lake and merged it with the plant of the *Buena Vista Vidette*. The *Sac County News*, later called the *Early News*, proved to be the permanent newspaper venture at Early. It was started by Clarence Messer, and later was published by George Brown, C. E. Stallcop, H. W. Cory and J. E. Chrysler and eventually, in March, 1906, passed into the hands of J. C. Blair, a veteran newspaper man who fits admirably into the community he is serving. The *News* has had varying fortunes politically. Its present publisher has been a lifelong Republican, but shows a Progressive leaning. He not only furnishes the news locally in an acceptable manner, but also takes occasion to discuss political matters editorially.

At Lake View, the *Resort* was started in the early summer of 1889 by Wilson M. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton leased or sold the newspaper several times, but retained an equity in the plant for about twenty years. He was a capable writer and labored persistently for the upbuilding of the little town by the lake. When he finally sold the newspaper, the name was changed to the *Argus*, but when it passed into the hands of the present publisher, Edwin C. McSheehy, he wisely restored the pioneer name of the *Lake View Resort*. Mr. McSheehy came to Lake View with a successful newspaper experience



on the city press, and is proving an energetic factor toward the upbuilding of his community.

At Auburn the first newspaper was started by Jones & Hotchkiss, as the memory of old settlers runs, in 1886. It was still published in May, 1887, but probably was discontinued shortly afterward. The permanent newspaper at Auburn was *The Recorder*, which was established September 16, 1893, by Fred L. Ellis. He conducted it a few months, and then sold it to E. H. Merrill, who has published it ever since, with the exception of a few months, utilizing his opportunities quite creditably.

The *Nemaha Register* began publication in the winter of 1900 to 1901. It was established by D. H. Roush, who sold it to C. E. Evans. Ownership then passed to C. C. Keeny, the present publisher, who makes it strictly a local newspaper.

The only newspaper venture at Lytton has been the *Star*, which was established about the beginning of the year 1905 by G. A. Craig, an original but somewhat illiterate genius from Missouri. Mr. Craig sold the newspaper to C. Everett Lee, who at one time was publisher of the *Sac County Democrat*. Though well along in years, Mr. Lee is is active as a youth, writes vigorously, expresses his opinions freely and shows an active interest in all of the affairs of the town, making the *Star* one of the best newspapers published anywhere in a town the size of Lytton.

Two newspapers were established at Grant City in 1872 to take advantage of the bonus for the publication of state laws. One of these was put in by the *Storm Lake Pilot* and was named the *Grant City Journal*, and the other was launched by James N. Miller, of the *Sac Sun*, and was known as the *Hornet*. Mr. Miller continued it until he headed off the *Journal* and then merged it with the *Sun*. It is recalled also that the *News*, publication of which at Auburn has been mentioned, was first established at Grant City in June, 1886.

## CHAPTER X.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

In Sac county, as in all new countries, there was little use for banking houses until long after the Civil War. Prior to the seventies the business was mostly confined to local barter—one man selling to another, and usually trading grain and wood and stock for sugar, tobacco, dress goods, and factory cloth for men's wear. Fort Dodge, Sioux City and Council Bluffs all had early banks and to such centers of money and population went the people from Sac county when any real banking business was necessary to be transacted. The land office was long located at Sioux City and a branch at Fort Dodge, and there the home and land seeker went with his ready cash, and in person paid for his lands, if purchased from the government. But as the county settled up and numerous towns sprang into existence, it became necessary to establish a system of local banks and this was promptly accomplished when the demand for such place of business was made. Sac City had the first bank in the county, and is still the center of the county's financial institutions, although almost every town and hamlet within her borders has a bank of its own, and really able, financially, to do the business of their own respective communities. Wall Lake soon had a bank and has kept up the business since 1878 in what is now styled the German State Bank. This county has been free from any great bank failures, and for the most part the banks have been successful in paying out dollar for dollar their obligations to their patrons, through the numerous panics through which the country has passed.

#### PRESENT BANKS OF THE COUNTY.

The following is a list of the various banking houses in Sac county in January, 1914, with the date and order in which they were established and their present capital:

Wall Lake, German State Bank, established in 1878, present capital \$25,000.

Wall Lake Savings Bank, established 1882, present capital \$30,000.

Schaller State Bank, established in 1887, present capital \$40,000.

Sac County State Bank, Sac City, established in 1887, present capital \$75,000, surplus and undivided profits \$87,176.32, equal to a total of \$162,176.32.

Early State Bank, established in 1888, present capital \$40,000.

Lake View State Bank, established in 1889, present capital \$25,000.

Sac City, First National Bank, established in 1890, present capital and profits \$165,000.

Schaller Savings Bank, established in 1892, present capital \$25,000.

Odebolt, First National Bank, established in 1899, present capital \$50,000.

Lytton, Farmers State Bank, established 1900, present capital \$25,000.

Odebolt, German Savings Bank, established in 1901, present capital \$50,000.

Auburn, Farmers and Merchants Bank, established in 1903, present capital \$25,000.

Nemaha State Bank, established in 1903, present capital \$25,000.

Sac City, Farmers Savings Bank, established in 1906, present capital \$50,000.

Ulmer, Farmers Savings Bank, established in 1911, present capital \$10,000.

Early, Citizens Bank, established 1911, present capital \$30,000.

The latest bank in the county is the Farmers Savings Bank of Odebolt, which was established in February, 1914, by many farmers. It starts with a capital of \$50,000.

This makes a total of \$835,000 as the capital held by all the Sac county banks, at this date.

#### SAC CITY BANKS.

The Sac County State Bank, of Sac City, was organized and opened its doors for business February 21, 1887. This bank really succeeded to the first banking concern of this county, the "exchange" operated from 1871 on by Judge D. Carr Early, who, in company with W. H. Hobbs and N. W. Condron, erected a bank building in 1875, and in 1876 incorporated the Sac County Bank, with Messrs. Early, Hobbs and Condron, all ex-county officials, as incorporators. The officers of this pioneer bank were D. Carr Early, president; W. H. Hobbs, vice-president; N. W. Condron, cashier. It had a capital of \$50,000. When the change was made and the present Sac County State Bank was established in 1887, the *Sac Sun* had this item concerning the

new bank: "The new bank opened for business Monday morning, taking formal possession of the Sac County Bank, and Messrs. Baily and Grotewohl may be found in their places ready for business. The State Bank succeeds the Sac County Bank and will confine itself strictly to banking business, doing no real estate business, only what may be absolutely necessary. Its capital is \$35,000 and will no doubt be increased to \$50,000 in a year or two."

On January 1, 1890, the capital of this bank was increased to \$75,000 and had a surplus of \$18,000. This was the third year after its organization. So, really, this is the site of the oldest bank in the county, and has gone through all the panics and paid out dollar for dollar to its thousands of depositors.

Their statement January 28, 1914, gave its deposits as \$635,710. Its capital is \$75,000 and its surplus and undivided profits \$87,176.32. The total amounts to \$162,176.32. This bank has headquarters in the same block in which it was first established in 1887, though about 1900 it was overhauled and remodeled, making it one of the finest banking buildings in the western part of the state. All branches of banking are here transacted. A few years ago a savings department was added, and this has greatly increased its business. The present officers and directors are: Asa Platt, president; E. N. Baily, vice-president; J. Y. Campfield, vice-president; C. C. Jameson, cashier; Frank Kessler, assistant cashier; directors, Asa Platt, J. Y. Campfield, Orville Lee, W. H. Townsend, E. N. Baily, Charles L. Early, Malcom Currie and C. C. Jameson.

This corps of men, each peculiarly fitted for the responsible position he holds, makes this a strong bank and is the reason that it has the confidence of such a large portion of the citizens of Sac and surrounding counties. Their correct business management has given them the liberal deposits they now have.

The First National Bank, of Sac City, was established October 27, 1890, and was the first bank of the national type founded in Sac county. It was organized by D. E. Hallett, Eugene Criss and H. H. Allison. The first capital was \$50,000, and it is the same today, but also has \$50,000 more as surplus and undivided profits. The original officers of this banking house were as follows: D. E. Hallett, president; H. H. Allison, cashier. The officers today are: George B. Perkins, president; Dr. C. B. Adams, vice-president; H. S. Barnt, cashier; E. D. Humphries, assistant cashier. The present bank building was erected in 1893 at a cost of about \$15 000. This fine structure has been the home of the bank, also of the United States post-

office, with law, medical and other offices on the second floor. The serial number of this the first national bank in Sac county is 4,450, showing that there had been 4,449 national banks organized and chartered before this one.

It may be stated that in 1885 D. E. Hallett and H. H. Allison came to Sac City and at once purchased the Commercial Bank of J. L. Watson, and changed its name to the Citizens Bank and operated it as such up to 1890, when it was chartered as a national bank. The old Watson, or Commercial Bank was established in 1879 or 1880. It had a capital of \$25,000. No bank in this section of Iowa stands higher in the minds of good business men and shrewd financiers than does this First National Bank of Sac City.

The Farmers Savings Bank, at Sac City, was organized in 1906. Its 1914 officers were: F. S. Needham, president; L. E. Irwin, vice-president; C. E. Harding, cashier; S. W. Shaw, teller; directors, F. S. Needham, L. E. Irwin, C. E. Harding, S. M. Elwood, William Block, J. T. Dollison and J. H. Grohe. The first capital was \$20,000; present capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$1,500; undivided profits, \$1,000. The bank was chartered in 1906 with the serial number of 521. This bank has had a phenomenal growth and is now accounted one of the excellent financial institutions in Sac county. Its managers and directors are conservative business men throughout. They study to please and want to be sure they are right and then go ahead. This has made them appreciated by all who transact business with them. Practically speaking, all the stockholders of this banking house are numbered among the thrifty farmers of the county.

#### BANKING AT ODEBOLT.

At Odebolt there was for a number of years what was known as the Farmers National Bank, but in January, 1914, it was merged with the interests of the First National Bank of that city. The bank referred to was established in 1901 with a capital of \$50,000.

The First National Bank at Odebolt was established as a state bank in May, 1886, but in January, 1891, was changed to a national bank by W. W. Field, W. J. Summerville, B. A. Coy, J. K. Ketterer, S. H. Bowman, W. F. Bay and George J. Low. It commenced on a capital of \$25,000, but now has a capital of \$140,000, with \$56,000 surplus and undivided profits. A new charter was granted this national bank in January, 1911, running until 1931. A good bank building was erected by the bank in 1895. The original officers of the bank were: W. W. Field, president; B. A. Coy, vice-president;

George J. Low, cashier; W. F. Bay, assistant cashier. The officers in the month of February, 1914, were: Joseph Mattes, president; Henry Hanson, vice-president; W. F. Bay, cashier; A. H. Lunberg, assistant cashier. The directors are W. A. Helsell, J. R. Mattes, R. B. Adams, H. Hanson, J. A. Cranston, W. F. Bay, Henry Frevert, Joseph Mattes and B. C. Bowman. On January 13, 1914, this bank had deposits amounting to \$583,452.72. The resources and liabilities amounted at that date to \$923,464.64. Capital and surplus \$168,000. It is one of Sac county's most solid banking houses, where all are safe and secure.

The German Savings Bank of Odebolt was organized in 1901, succeeding the loan business established by John N. Schmitz in 1886. In 1901 Mr. Schmitz established a private bank and in September, 1905, the German Savings Bank was established by his sons. They occupy a handsome new brick building, thirty by forty-eight feet in size. It is a pressed brick structure, trimmed with Bedford stone, built at a cost of seven thousand dollars. It has modern fixtures throughout and carries a modern safety deposit vault system, containing one hundred and twenty-five boxes. The capital of this bank is \$50,000.

The Farmers Savings Bank, at Odebolt, was organized in January, 1914, with a capital of \$50,000. The founders of this bank were W. C. Cathcart, W. T. Down, A. E. Gunderson and Starr G. Wilson. The officers are: Starr G. Wilson, president; W. C. Cathcart, vice-president; Edna M. Hanson, cashier.

This bank was incorporated December 13, 1913, and formally opened its doors for banking business January 5, 1914. It is, practically speaking, a farmer's bank, the capital almost entirely having been taken by farmers in and around Odebolt. It has ninety-one stockholders, most of whom are good substantial farmers living near the town, and from its opening day the growth of the business has been rapid. Its future seems very bright and gives promise of becoming one of the county's strong institutions.

#### AT NEMAHA.

The Nemaha State Bank was organized at Nemaha, this county, in 1903, by E. N. Bailly, D. W. Graff and C. H. Townsend, with a capital of \$25,000, the same as it carries today. Its surplus and undivided profits is \$2,500. Its present (1914) officers are: E. N. Bailey, president; Harter Marquess, vice-president; C. E. Townsend, cashier; C. D. Deppe, assistant

cashier. This institution succeeded the old Nemaha Bank, a private concern owned and operated by E. N. Baily and D. W. Graff. A bank building was erected in 1907. This bank is doing a good business and has the confidence of all the surrounding community because of its square dealing and correct business methods.

#### ULMER BANK.

The Farmers Savings Bank of Ulmer was established in 1911 by the surrounding farming community taking stock. The first officers were: William Heptonstall, president; Charles O. Hill, vice-president; C. H. Townsend, cashier. The same are still officers, except the vice-president, who is now F. A. Meyer. The capital stock is \$10,000. The bank owns its own building. This is the first and only banking institution the town has ever had.

#### THE BANKS AT EARLY.

The first attempt at banking in the town of Early was in what was styled in those days the "Exchange," a sort of banking business transacted in the general merchandise store of the place, but it did but little real banking business. The first bank proper in the town was the Early State Bank, organized about 1888, by S. K. Fuller, N. O. Fuller, A. Mason and a few other citizens. Its capital was \$30,000. Its first officers were: S. K. Fuller, president; A. Mason, vice-president; N. O. Fuller, cashier. It was conducted in the two-story frame building in which the *Early News* is now situated. It was established as a private concern, but was soon converted into a state bank, and finally merged into the present State Bank of Early, which bank was organized in 1900 by Frank S. Needham, Phil Schaller, S. K. Fuller and A. Mason. Frank Needham has been president from the beginning; E. C. Fuller was vice-president and G. S. Needham, cashier. Its present (1914) officers are: Frank Needham, president; E. C. Fuller, vice-president, and Walter Little, cashier. Its first capital was \$30,000, which has been increased to \$40,000, with something over \$3,000 surplus and undivided profits. It is situated in a fine brick banking house, erected about 1900. Its predecessor, as shown above, was the old Early State Bank.

The Early Building and Loan Association was established after a sweeping fire in Early in 1890, and worked under its charter twenty years and was finally sold to A. Mason, who had been its president for its twenty years of chartered life. Town loans was its specialty. Its capital was \$2,800, but was authorized to be as high as \$5,000. It was started to help build up certain



properties destroyed by the conflagration of 1890. These building institutions are no longer as popular as they once were in this section of Iowa.

The Citizens State Bank at Early was organized January 1, 1911, with a capital of \$30,000 by T. A. Barrett, D. D. Carlton, W. F. Yender, Byrhl Carlton, W. P. Hirons, Will Drury, John Reiff, Jr., F. C. Brockman and others. It now has its original capital stock and \$2,000 in surplus and profits.

The original officers were: T. A. Barrett, president; D. D. Carlton, vice-president; A. F. Yender, cashier; Byrhl Carlton, assistant cashier. The present officers are the same as at first, except E. Evans is now assistant cashier. The cost of bank building and fixtures was seven thousand dollars. This institution does a good, safe banking business and the people generally have the utmost confidence in the management of its business transactions, and the men at the head.

#### BANKING AT SCHALLER.

The Schaller Savings Bank, at Schaller, was organized in 1892. Its present officers are: F. S. Needham, president; Charles W. Brimhall, vice-president; A. J. Martin, cashier; C. W. Brimhall, assistant cashier. The capital of this bank is \$25,000, with surplus and profits of \$2,000. In 1904 a bank building was erected, at a cost of six thousand dollars, on Second street. During the past year this institution has enjoyed an unusual and prosperous business and deposits have increased rapidly, showing the confidence with which the people of the surrounding country have in the institution as a safe place to leave their earnings.

The State Bank of Schaller was started as a private bank in 1887 and re-organized in 1889 into a state banking institution, under the banking laws of the state of Iowa. This bank was organized by F. H. Hahn, E. E. Hughes, J. T. Edson, W. J. Howard, C. O. Porter, J. W. McConkey, Charles A. Blossom, A. W. Buckle, W. R. Brooks, H. J. Hahn, G. Chandler, J. H. Denman and A. Porter. No bank in the county has made a better growth. The first officers were: F. H. Hahn, president; Charles A. Blossom, vice-president; A. W. Buckle, cashier; J. T. Edson, assistant cashier. The bank was started on a capital of \$6,000, and has been increased to \$40,000, with a surplus and undivided profits of \$10,000. The present bank building was erected in 1891 at a cost of \$12,000; it stands on lots Nos. 8 and 9, in block 4 of the town of Schaller. It was chartered as a state bank November 22, 1899, with the serial number of 6,688. Present officers are: W. J. Howard, president; J. H. Meier, vice-president; Samuel Hahn, cashier; E. W. Schafer, assistant cashier; M. E. Currie, teller.

## BANKING AT LAKE VIEW.

The Lake View State Bank was organized as the Lake View Bank in 1889 by Phil Schaller and F. S. Needham as owners. It merged into, or became, the Lake View State Bank in 1893, its stockholders and officers being Phil Schaller, F. S. Needham, J. P. Therkelsen, A. Armstrong and John Donahue, and several others. Its first capital stock was \$25,000, the same that it still carries, although to it should be added the \$2,000 in surplus and undivided profits. The original officers were: Phil Schaller, president; J. P. Therkelsen, vice-president; F. S. Needham, cashier; J. H. McCord, assistant cashier.

The present (1914) officers are: F. S. Needham, president; J. P. Therkelsen, vice-president; C. P. Therkelsen, cashier; E. P. Hartman, assistant cashier. The bank building was erected in 1889 at a cost of two thousand dollars. The date of this bank's charter is 1893 and its serial number is 180.

## BANKING AT WALL LAKE.

The beginning of banking at Wall Lake, this county, was on this wise: What is now the German State Bank, which was incorporated under its present name in July, 1910, was preceded by a small banking business transacted by A. Herrig in 1878 in a store, in connection with his other commercial business, there being no bank in Wall Lake up to that date. In 1890 he organized a private bank, and kept it in a separate building, doing business under the name of A. Herrig, Banker. In 1893 the concern was incorporated into the Wall Lake State Bank. In 1900 it was changed back to a private banking house again, under the name of the German Bank. A. Herrig died in 1910 and the bank was incorporated in July of that year by C. M. Herrig and others. Its officers were: C. M. Herrig, president; G. A. Mohr, vice-president; William Claussen, cashier. The present (1914) officers are the same as last mentioned. The capital stock is \$25,000, with a surplus and profits of \$2,500. The deposits are now, in round figures, \$150,000. The present bank building was erected in 1885 as a store building, but in 1893 changed to suit the business of general banking. The bank was chartered in 1910 at Wall Lake. This is one of the solid institutions of the southern portion of Sac county, and all the people have confidence in its management and officers, as is evidenced by its large amount of home deposits.

The other bank at Wall Lake is the Wall Lake Savings Bank, which

sprung into existence in a rather unique manner, as will be seen by the following item kept among the private books of the present bank, which we have been kindly allowed to use in the make-up of this chapter.

About August 1, 1882, Nelson Wright and R. L. Goodenow formed a copartnership for the purpose of transacting a general banking business at Wall Lake, Iowa. These men agreed to invest an equal amount of capital and to share equally in the gain or loss as the sequel might prove. An invoice of notes and bank fixtures was taken showing that Nelson Wright had invested \$1,700 and R. L. Goodenow \$250, which he had on deposit. About the same time, Mr. Goodenow went to Maquoketa, Iowa, and there borrowed of Mr. Hubbell \$2,000, giving a note for the amount, signed by Nelson Wright and R. L. Goodenow, dated July 29, 1882, and due three months from date. The proceeds of said note were sent by express and was received at Wall Lake, August 1, 1882. The amount was placed to the stock account of the members of the firm, each being credited with \$1,000. Mr. Wright's share seems to be included in his investment of notes and cash. Again during the month of August, that year, Mr. Goodenow borrowed of Ed. Wooly \$2,000, giving a note signed by Mr. Goodenow and Nelson Wright, and this amount was placed to the credit of the stock account, each being credited with \$1,000.

On September 13, 1882, R. L. Goodenow invested \$1,000 and on August 20th R. L. Goodenow borrowed \$1,000 from Mr. Watson, giving his note signed by himself and Nelson Wright, due in one year, and this was placed to the stock account. Again on October 4th, R. L. Goodenow borrowed from Watson \$450 for one year, which was credited to R. L. Goodenow as stock, and placed to his credit as his investment. Three years later, Goodenow bought the interests of Nelson Wright in the bank, which was conducted as a private concern, with R. L. Goodenow as its owner, until 1905, when it was organized into a state savings bank, with a capital of \$30,000. The first officers of this bank were: R. L. Goodenow, president; Charles Goodenow, vice-president; George Newby, cashier, with Alexander Johnson and L. A. Mueller as additional stockholders. The present (1914) officers are: Charles Goodenow, president; M. B. Goodenow, vice-president; Charles W. Shaw, cashier. The first and present capital is \$30,000, to which has been added \$10,000 as undivided profits and surplus.

The present bank building was erected on the corner of Main and Second streets in 1913 at a cost of about \$8,000. Formerly it was kept in the brick building on the opposite side of the street. It was chartered in 1905 and its serial number is 12,205. When one contemplates the origin of this bank,

it seems almost a marvel that the present standing of the concern could possibly be what it is. The stockholders and officers have just reason to be proud of their achievements. The people certainly have had confidence in the men "behind the guns" in this enterprise.

The Auburn Farmers and Merchants Bank, at Auburn, was established in 1903 and has a capital of \$25,000, with a surplus and undivided profits of \$21,250. The recent deposits amounted to \$168,000. The officers are: J. Kessler, president; G. M. Parker, vice-president; W. E. Comstock, cashier; G. M. Parker, assistant cashier.

The Farmers State Bank, of Lytton, was established in 1900, and has a capital of \$25,000, with \$4,000 surplus. The present amount of deposits is \$175,000. The officers in 1914 were: Frank Coy, president; F. A. Ayers, vice-president; G. B. Willhorte, cashier.

## CHAPTER XI.

### EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

By Ex-County Superintendent R. Ellis.

The present high standing of the public schools in Sac county grows out of the fact that the pioneers were from American neighborhoods in some one of the Eastern or Middle states and appreciated education; also from the untiring energy and tact on the part of a great majority of the county school superintendents, who have ever sought out the latest and most approved methods of instruction. It may not be without profit and interest just at this point to insert a list of the school superintendents of Sac county, with a few notes concerning this office. Up to 1858 the schools were managed by what was known as a school fund commissioner, and then came the "superintendent," who was elected by the people at the general elections, as were other county officers, but this was changed by the Legislature of 1912-13 and the superintendent is elected by the several school boards in the county. This is, of course, an experiment and time will tell as to the wisdom of such change in the manner of selecting a superintendent. The first and only school fund commissioner was William Todd, elected in August, 1856. G. F. Browning was the first to hold the office of superintendent, being elected in 1858. Following him were: William Todd, 1861; William Kromer, appointed by County Judge E. Criss, in July, 1861; William Kromer, elected 1862; William Chapin, elected 1865; William P. Drewry, elected 1867; R. Ellis, elected 1869 and 1871; John Dobson, 1873 and 1875; James Darling, 1877, 1879 and 1881; H. L. Martin, 1883; Clarence Messer, 1887; Clarence Messer, 1889; C. E. Stallcop, 1891 and 1893; J. W. Jackson, 1895; C. H. Jump, 1899-01; H. C. Coe, 1903-05; John R. Slacks, elected 1908 and still superintendent.

This office has grown to be one of much importance and none but capable men and women need hereafter apply for such positions.

Sac county was settled at a date a little too late in the history of educational advantages in the country to have known anything by experience with the subscription school system that had prevailed in the Eastern states up to about 1835 or 1840.

### FIRST SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY.

As stated in the beginning, the first settlers in Sac county took great interest in education, most of them being by birth Americans. Among those

coming in from the Eastern and Middle states were such men as Joseph Williams, Peter Basler and others of Sac township; Francis Cory and Eugene Criss, Asa Platt, D. Carr Early, William Hobbs and N. W. Condron, of Jackson township; M. S. Lee, John Alexander and William Montgomery, of Douglas township. Up to 1865 there were but five schools within the county, and these were as follows:

The first school taught in the county was the one taught in the winter of 1856-57 in a log cabin at Ross's Grove, three and a half miles south of Sac City. This building was erected by Enoch Ross for a residence. Isaac Cory taught this pioneer term of school and had about a dozen pupils. The second school was taught in a log cabin built by Harvey Slavin, whose wife was teacher. This was at Cory's Grove, two and a half miles south of Sac City, and it was taught in the winter of 1857-58. The third school in the county was the one taught at a log shack of a building by Seymour Wagoner. The fourth school was taught five and a half miles north of Sac City by Henry Hubbard, about 1860, in a log school house erected for such use. The fifth school was at Grant City about 1860. In 1865 these schools, except the Ross Grove school, were all running, and besides these there was one at De Camp's, five miles southeast of Sac City. The first school at Sac City was kept in a log building, but by 1865 a two-story frame was built for school purposes. This stood where now stands Postmaster Early's residence, in the heart of the city. The next in Sac City was the two-story brick building, with five departments, and in which taught the writer, R. Ellis, who in all taught here seven terms.

Among those who were teachers and others deeply concerned in school matters may be recalled such names as B. W. Trout, William Chapin, Robert Browning and Levi Davis. A teachers' association was organized and meetings were alternately held at Grant City and Sac City.

In 1865 there were polled at the annual election about ninety votes in the entire county. I was elected county superintendent, served three terms and was succeeded by John Dobson, who took great interest in educational matters. After the close of the Civil War this county settled up very rapidly, settlers being attracted by the extra fertility of the soil and the most excellent character of the few pioneers who had already settled here and laid well the foundations for a good county government. It was about this time—1867 to 1870—that other civil townships were organized and school districts established in each of them. There was a time here when it did not require a certain number of pupils in order to organize a school district and at least one was organized and a term taught with only two scholars and the wife and

mother was the teacher. Today we have excellent school advantages on every hand and people universally take pride in their good schools. I have taught fifty years and it does my heart good to think that my successors in the office of superintendent of this county have been so faithful in the discharge of their duties, and among such I want to mention William Chapin, William Drewry and John Dobson.

It may be stated in this connection that ex-County Superintendent R. Ellis of Grant City, who furnished us with the above, was himself an educator of no small proportions at an early day in this county. He was superintendent of this county three terms, and taught seven terms of school in Sac City and many in his own town of Grant City, where he still resides, honored by all. He now numbers among his old pupils many of the old gray-haired men and women of this county, and in many instances taught the children of his former pupils here. He was no less a success as a teacher than as a county superintendent, when he had to go on foot and on horseback to visit the few schools within the county in the seventies. His methods were always practical and his discipline firm, yet sensible and tender. He governed by reason and only in extreme cases used the rod. He won his pupils by gaining their good will and confidence.

#### THE SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY IN 1884.

Thirty years ago the public schools of this county, as shown by County Superintendent Martin's report to the state department, were in the following condition, as to number, buildings, etc.:

Township			Township		
District.	Buildings.	Pupils.	District.	Buildings.	Pupils.
Boyer Valley -----	7	177	Richland -----	8	211
Cedar -----	9	222	Sac -----	7	198
Clinton -----	9	218	Viola -----	9	226
Cook -----	7	192	Wall Lake -----	9	275
Coon Valley -----	7	210	Wheeler -----	9	236
Delaware -----	7	174	Early -----	1	101
Douglas -----	7	124	Odebolt -----	1	250
Eden -----	6	105	Sac City -----	1	328
Eureka -----	8	105	Schaller -----	1	65
Jackson -----	8	178	Wall Lake (town) --	1	150
Levey -----	6	162			
			Total -----	127	4,153





HIGH SCHOOL, AUBURN



ONE REASON FOR SAC COUNTY'S PROGRESS



This was an increase of twenty-seven school houses and nine hundred and seventy-eight pupils in three years. In the winter of 1884-85 there were required one hundred and forty-seven teachers to teach the winter schools of this county.

In 1900 this county had a population of 17,639. There were three deaf and dumb children and two of feeble minds. The schools were divided into 132 sub-districts, in which there were 131 ungraded schools; 2,958 male and 2,890 female pupils. The value of all school property was estimated at \$116,075; apparatus, \$5,740; volumes in school libraries, 4,238; number of living, thrifty shade trees about school grounds, 2,342. The school buildings ranked: Fifty-four good, eighty fair and seven poor.

Sac City became an independent school district in 1876, and J. N. Miller, in his *Sac Sun*, some years later, described the school house then in use as follows: "It is a fine brick edifice, with a stone foundation, built in 1871, at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. It contains three rooms, the whole upper story being devoted to the high school department, while the intermediate departments and the primary are accommodated on the first floor. The building is well built and handsomely furnished, and is well ventilated, comfortable and more than ordinarily lighted. The schools are in a good condition, well disciplined and progressing most satisfactorily in the various branches of study."

Really, the climax in school buildings in Sac City was the erection of the present high school building (so called) which was built in 1903-04, at a cost of forty thousand dollars, including a five-thousand-dollar heating plant. It is about midway from the business center of the city to the Northwestern depot, on the south side of Main street. Its campus is indeed beautiful, while all the general surroundings are those calculated to inspire the youth who attend this school. The structure is thoroughly modern in all particulars. Its appointments meet with all the now known requirements of sanitary and student life. It is certainly an ornament to the county seat town of Sac county.

In 1913 the school board purchased the old Institute buildings, treated elsewhere in this chapter, from that institution and have converted the same into a school building, and in it now the high school department of the Sac City public schools is kept. The price paid for this property was six thousand dollars. It was much the cheapest piece of school property ever bought in the county.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF SAC CITY.

The following is quoted from an illustrated Christmas number of the *Sac County Bulletin*, published in 1911, and so befittingly covers the school system at the county seat town that it is here appended to other educational matters concerning the county:

"Sac City gives ample proof of keen interest in her educational efforts, as is evidenced by the substantial public school and college buildings found here which would be a credit to a town twice the size of it. A very competent force of teachers has always been one of the features especially aimed at by the school board, and the product of the high school is ample proof of the success attained along this line. The pupils in attendance at our high school and college are drawn from a large extent of territory, presumably larger on account of the excellent reputation of the managing boards of both these institutions and the just pride of the faculty invariably secured. We place the educational interest in the first rank as regards importance in any town, because it is there that the lawmakers and statesmen are made. No feature of improvement stamps a town more distinctly than the school, and nothing else in the town makes so much for good government as the school. Sac City is liberal in this matter in a highly satisfactory manner, and stands ready to give the rising generation all the aids possible for the achievements of scholastic success.

"The explanation for the interest taken in all the matters relative to education in Sac City is not far to seek. The population of the town and immediate vicinity is largely made up of a practical, intelligent class, critical in a high degree when it comes to anything along the line of oratory or rhetoric, and pronounced in their approval of whatever comes near the high standard of excellency they have intuitively established. Every form of knowledge-producing publications are to be found in the hands or libraries of our people, and a true appreciation of everything worthy is always ungrudgingly given.

"A gentleman of high standing in educational circles, a lecturer who appeared on our chautauqua platform recently, in speaking of Sac City, said: 'I have never been in a town so small as Sac City where there was so much evidence of higher education generally distributed among the people.' This was no empty flattery, as some of the victims of Sac City's disapproval can tell, when they come to us with any form of entertainment that fell short of what was expected."

Sac City may justly boast of her public schools. No sooner had the hardy pioneer settled here on the banks of the Coon river than he took account (after first building a house in which to live) of the matter of caring for his children's education. The culmination is seen in that splendid educational monument—the Sac City high school building. It is built upon honor, by competent craftsmen; it is well equipped with the latest improved appliances and apparatus. It really ranks well up in the scale of any school in the state. The Sac City school system provides for one year of training in the kindergarten, a four-year course of study in the primary department, a four-year course in the grammar department and an elective four years in the high school. Music, drawing and art work are also taught here.

In 1911 the total enrollment in all departments was about six hundred pupils. Of these a considerable number in the higher grades came in from outlying districts and not a few from other near-by counties.

In 1905 the Sac City high school was placed on the list of fully accredited high schools by the State University and colleges of Iowa. The following year, after a most thorough inspection, it was fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges, being accepted for thirty-two credits, or sixteen units, two more than required for unconditional entrance into any college or university of the fourteen states in the association. Sac City long since ranked as one of the best of the thirty Iowa schools on this association's accredited list.

#### OTHER SAC COUNTY SCHOOLS.

At Odebolt an independent district obtained in 1880; the first school was taught by Jacob Gable. A neat frame building was erected in 1880, costing three thousand dollars.

Away back in the eighties, Wall Lake was set off into an independent school district. In the summer of 1879 a neat frame building was erected at a cost of seven hundred and fifty dollars. It was twenty-two by thirty-six feet in size. In 1880 it was too crowded to do good school work and rooms had to be secured in outside rooms, the Masonic lodge room being used for one grade.

In all other towns in this county, as soon as they had been platted and a few families settled there, school houses went up and competent instructors were at once secured.

What was styled the County Teachers' Association existed many years

in Sac county and frequent meetings were held at the various towns, Sac City, Grant City, Wall Lake and Odebolt. Much good was derived from these teachers' gatherings. It appears from a record book that this association was established in the early eighties and continued many years until our present institute was created. This journal gives the teachers enrolled in the book at the meeting at Odebolt, October 20, 1892, as follows: F. F. Strong, E. D. A. Strong, Myra Hovenden, Ella, Rothwell, Lizzie Platt, C. H. Jump, Mrs. C. H. Jump, Edgar Corry, Ralph Parker, Jessie Townsend, C. E. Stallcop, Ethel B. Hayden, Ella Down, Mabel Brinck, Mabel Allen, Benjamin G. Hess, Mrs. C. B. Bailey, Julia Gavin, Agnes Gavin, Anna Hempen, Mabel Spafford, Emma Menges, Jim Smellhurst, John C. Stevens, H. M. Hayes, T. W. Down, A. L. Hunt, Emma D. Petersmyer, J. H. Orcutt, Maggie Dunn, Katie Molloy, Hannah Aupperle.

#### SCHOOL HOUSES, ETC.

School houses are dotted here and there over every township in the county, usually eight or nine to the township. They are, for the most part, good frame structures in the country and of brick in the larger towns within the county.

A few years ago it was learned that Hon. George W. Schee, an early homesteader, who came to O'Brien county right after the Civil War a poor man, but who, by his shrewdness in dealing in lands, became a very wealthy man, and a philanthropist as well, had been donating United States flags to many of the northwestern Iowa counties to have them placed on the school buildings. When this was known, efforts were made to secure such for the one hundred and twenty-eight school buildings in this county. Mr. Schee made a trip in his automobile from Primghar, his home, to Sac City, and the result was his donation of not only flags, but poles and cords for each three-and-a-half by seven-foot flags, with the promise when these "Old Glories" had worn out that he would direct that they be replaced free of cost. All he required was that the school boards in this county should hire a competent person to attach the flag poles to the school houses, which was cheerfully granted. Mr. Schee was an old soldier and a lover of the emblem of his country for which he had fought and takes great delight in inspiring in the breasts of the rising young a true love and patriotic spirit for the country in which they live. It is stated that this worthy man has donated flags to the schools in twenty-two counties in northwestern Iowa. Just think of the cost

and think of the mind of a man who is thus generously disposed. Let his flags be a monument unto him for all time!

#### THE DELAWARE TOWNSHIP UNION SCHOOL.

By J. R. Slacks, County Superintendent of Schools.

At Nemaha, in the center of Delaware township, is located the only union township school in Sac county. The steps leading up to the establishment of this school discloses a rather stormy history.

In the winter of 1909-1910 a petition was presented to the school board of Delaware township asking that an election be held for the purpose of voting on the question of consolidating the schools of the township. The plan included five subdistricts of the township, leaving out the four corner districts. Meetings were held and the question discussed pro and con. When the votes were counted it was found that the proposition had failed to carry. Nothing daunted, the promoters of the plan of consolidation began quietly to talk and work for another election, this time to include the whole township in a consolidated independent district. The election was held in January, 1910, and this time the proposition carried by a vote of eighty to seventy-six. Those favoring consolidation were well pleased with the result and thought the battle was over; that there was nothing more to be done but wait until the school was provided by the board. As a result of this feeling they failed to go to the election when the new board was elected and the opponents of the plan elected a board that was opposed to consolidation to a man. This board refused to make any change in the schools, and for a year things drifted along with no change or attempt to provide a school house. Under the law then in force, the board could not be compelled to make a change even after the people had voted for consolidation. The thirty-fourth General Assembly, however, passed a law that provided that in cases where the people had voted to consolidate, the board was obliged to go ahead and carry out the wishes of the voters. Even then the Delaware board refused to act until a petition for a writ of mandamus was filed in the district court. This moved them to act, and an election was called giving the people an opportunity to vote on the question of issuing bonds in the amount of some seventeen thousand five hundred dollars for the purpose of building a central school house. The proposition failed to carry.

A petition was then presented to the board asking for an election to vote on the question of changing back to the township corporation plan. This



proposition carried and the change was made in due time. Thus the township was back exactly where it had been at the beginning of the school agitation.

During the winter of 1912-1913 a petition was presented to the board asking that the people be allowed to vote on the question of issuing bonds in the amount of ten thousand dollars for the purpose of building a union township high school. The election was held and the proposition carried. John C. Woodward, of Council Bluffs, was engaged by the board as architect, and the contract for the building was let to C. E. Axelson, of Harcourt, Iowa. The building was completed and dedicated on February 11, 1914. The schools of the township were dismissed for the day and all came together at the building to spend the day. Programs were held both in the forenoon and the afternoon, with a sumptuous dinner at noon. It was voted to make the day an annual affair.

The building is two stories, with high basement, and is built of brick. There are four recitation rooms and a principal's office or library, with cloak rooms for all. In the basement are two excellent rooms which can be used for school purposes if desired. The building is heated with steam throughout. The furniture is of the best, the seats and desks being adjustable to the height of the pupil.

The board of directors that has had charge of the erection of this modern building is composed of the following men: T. R. Puterbaugh, president; A. B. Domino, secretary; C. H. Townsend, treasurer; T. H. Carnine, T. A. Whitmore, William Hadley, Charles Hicks, James Mooney, Harter Marquess, H. A. Stephan and I. W. Scothorn. The teachers who had the honor of teaching the first day in the new building are as follows: Principal, John E. Hays; primary, Ella Toohey; intermediate, Zaidee McQuirk.

#### CONDITION OF SCHOOLS IN 1913.

As shown by the county superintendent's report to the state department of education, the following are the school statistics for Sac county for the school year ending September, 1913:

## TOWN AND CITY SCHOOLS.

Name.	Rooms.	Enrolled.	Houses.	Valuation.
Auburn -----	4	123	1	\$ 4,000
Early -----	6	143	1	4,500
Grant City -----	2	45	1	1,000
Lake View -----	6	136	1	6,500
Lytton -----	3	65	1	2,400
Odebolt -----	13	372	1	35,000
Sac City -----	14	617	2	60,000
Schaller -----	6	182	1	20,000
Wall Lake -----	6	168	1	10,000

## SCHOOL TOWNSHIPS.

Boyer Valley -----	8	129	8	8,000
Cedar -----	9	131	9	1,730
Clinton -----	9	103	9	4,800
Cook -----	9	152	9	4,500
Coon Valley -----	9	170	9	1,800
Delaware -----	9	154	9	3,000
Douglas -----	6	112	6	1,200
Eden -----	9	106	9	3,900
Eureka -----	8	98	7	1,900
Jackson -----	8	162	8	3,900
Levey -----	8	143	8	8,400
Richland -----	8	85	7	5,800
Sac -----	7	130	7	2,250
Viola -----	8	160	8	5,300
Wall Lake -----	8	174	8	2,500
Wheeler -----	9	109	8	3,200
Total -----	132	2,118	120	\$62,180

Total value of apparatus in county, \$5,376; volumes in libraries, 10,770. Total of school age in county, 2,767; male, 1,465; females, 1,302; total enrolled, both sex, 2,118. Wages for males in country, from \$35 to \$50; fe-

males, \$34 to \$49. Male teachers in town and city received \$90 to \$135; females, \$48 to \$60 per month.

## GRADE SCHOOLS.

Location.	Male Pupils.	Female Pupils.	Male Graduates.	Female Graduates.
Auburn -----	10	20	1	4
Early -----	20	25	4	2
Lake View -----	21	13	2	2
Lytton -----	8	3	--	--
Odebolt -----	48	52	2	9
Sac City -----	51	60	12	10
Schaller -----	23	31	1	1
Wall Lake -----	20	23	1	3
Totals -----	201	227	23	27

## THE SAC CITY INSTITUTE.

This splendid educational institution was in existence up to within a year or two. Its general history may be summed up as follows: It was established through the co-operation of the progressive element of Sac City. These men and women saw the need of such a school and went forward to perform their known duty to the rising young about them. This start was made in 1892, and the school was first styled the Oak Park Normal College. Following this step, the board was reorganized, and in 1894 it was known as the Sac City Institute. Among the leading spirits in this laudable educational enterprise may be recalled the names of A. B. Mason, Dr. Caleb Brown, D. Carr Early, Phil Schaller, Asa Platt, E. N. Baily, D. E. Hallett, Judge Eugene Criss ("Father of the City"), Judge Elwood, W. Jackson and W. H. Hart. Many of these gentlemen are now deceased, but during their lifetime they gave time, money and personal attention to this institution. During the almost a score of years the institute had but three principals. Prof. H. C. Nash served four years, and was succeeded by Prof. Walter Guthridge, and he in turn by Prof. G. W. Lee, who was at the helm for more than a dozen years. These men were thorough educators and the school prospered to a good degree.

Soon after the founding of this school the Baptist denomination accepted the offer of the stockholders to turn the institution over to them, providing they would keep it up. The Baptists all over Iowa were, for a time, enthusiastic over the new school and much constructive work was done toward uplift-

ing the institution. Libraries, scientific apparatus, etc., were from time to time added. In 1911 the faculty included such men and women as Prof. G. W. Lee, A. B., who, besides teaching, traveled about raising funds for the school and was successful. Prof. S. P. Fogdall, Ph. B., instructor in Latin and history, came from the Iowa Teachers' College, of Cedar Falls, and Des Moines College. Miss Lela Montgomery, Ph. B., instructor in English and German, was an accomplished educator from Ohio. Miss Mary Anderson, instructor in mathematics, was a later teacher, and was from the well-known Tarkio (Missouri) College. The commercial department was in charge of Prof. M. M. Merriman, M. Acct. He was educated at the Pennsylvania Normal and at Valparaiso, Indiana.

The work of the institute was divided into departments as follows: The academic department fitted students for the higher studies and for the professional lines. This was one of about eight thousand like schools in this country, and was indeed popular in its day. The normal department trained teachers and prospective teachers so they might be amply qualified to perform better work in the schools of our land. The commercial department was added later and was one of great value to the surrounding counties and to Sac City especially. Here the Goodyear-Marshall system of bookkeeping was used and taught with much practical efficiency. Here the young men and women were taught up-to-date commercial knowledge, thus fitting them for a life of usefulness and profit to themselves. Stenography and typewriting were also an important department. The piano or touch system of operating typewriting machines was used. The music department was another great feature of the institute in its palmy days. Among those connected as instructors in this department were Mrs. F. G. Cook and Miss Edna V. Wachtler. The art department was complete in every detail—free-hand drawing, pen and ink, charcoal, water colors, still life and life oil painting work were all successfully taught here. Miss May Alice Smith was the chief instructor along these lines and won many compliments for the work of advancing art.

On account of a universal change in the educational system of the country at large, and the demand for higher grades for the high schools of Iowa; the better facilities offered by the state institutions, such as the Normal School at Cedar Falls, the Ames Agricultural College, the State University, Grinnell and a score more high class schools and colleges, with the tendency (really a fad) to go abroad to attend school, the Sac City Institute declined in attendance and closed its doors in 1912. A portion of the building and property were sold in 1912 to the school district of Sac City and are now used for high school purposes.

## CHAPTER XII.

### MILITARY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY.

While it should be remembered in reading this chapter that Sac county was unsettled to any great extent at the opening years of the Civil War period, and long after all the other great conflicts of this country had been fought, hence had no part in such wars as the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, yet it was not without loyalty to the flag of the country. When her people had an opportunity to speak and act in defense of the starry banner during the Civil War a goodly number responded to the call of President Lincoln, as well as to the call of President William McKinley during the Spanish-American struggle in 1898. But it is not without profit to the reader of local annals to be posted also as to the issues and final call to arms in struggles which have gone down into history, even though but few of the brave sons of the few men who resided on Sac county soil were permitted to engage in these wars fought for the upbuilding of the state and nation's honor and integrity.

Of the Civil War of the sixties it should be stated that the institution of slavery had long been a source of trouble between the free and slave-holding states. The latter were always troubled with the thought that the former would encroach upon their rights, and nothing could be done to shake this belief. Compromise measures were adopted from time to time. Threats of secession were frequently made by the slave-holding states, but as some measures of a conciliatory character were passed, no attempts were made to carry out their threats. Finally came the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the adoption of a measure styled the Kansas-Nebraska bill. This bill in Congress opened up territory north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes latitude to slavery, which, under the Compromise of 1820, was forever to be free. About the time of the passage of this act, the Whig political party was in a state of dissolution and the great body of that party were opposed to the passage of the bill. These, with a few Democrats, joined together and formed the Republican party early in the fifties. It had for its object the prevention of the extension of slavery into other territory. The people of the South believed, or rather imagined, they saw in this new party not only an organized effort to

prevent the extension of slavery, but one that would eventually be used to destroy slavery in those states in which it already existed.

In 1860 four presidential tickets were in the field. Abraham Lincoln was the candidate of the Republicans, Stephen A. Douglas of the National Democrats, John C. Breckenridge of the Pro-Slavery interests, and John Bell of the Constitutional-Union party. The latter party was chiefly made up from the old American or Know-Nothing party. Early in the campaign there were threats of secession and disunion in case Lincoln was elected President. But the people were so accustomed to threats from the South that little heed was paid to it.

On December 20, 1860, South Carolina, by a convention of delegates, declared "That the Union now existing between South Carolina and the other states of the American Federation is dissolved, and that the state of South Carolina has resumed her position among the nations of the earth as a free and sovereign and independent state, with full power to levy war and conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all things which independent states may of right do."

On the 24th Governor Pickens issued a proclamation declaring that "South Carolina is, and has the right to be, free and independent as a state, and as such has right to levy war, conclude peace, and do all acts whatsoever that rightfully appertain to a free and independent state."

On the 26th Major Anderson evacuated Fort Moultrie and occupied Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. Two days previously he wrote President Buchanan's secretary of war, John B. Floyd, as follows: "When I inform you that my garrison consists of only sixty effective men, and that we are in very indifferent works, the walls of which are only fourteen feet high; and that we have, within one hundred and sixty yards of our fort, sand hills which command our works and which afford admirable sites for batteries and the finest coverts for sharpshooters; and that besides this there are numerous houses, some of which are in pistol range, and you will at once see that if attacked in force, headed by anyone but a simpleton, there is scarcely a possibility of our being able to hold out long enough for our friends to come to our succor."

His appeals for reinforcements were seconded by Gen. Winfield Scott, but unheeded by President Buchanan, and entirely ignored by Secretary of War John B. Floyd.

On the 28th South Carolina troops occupied Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney, and hoisted the Palmetto flag on the ramparts. On the 29th John B. Floyd resigned his place in the cabinet, charging that the President, in re-

fusing to remove Major Anderson from Charleston harbor, designed to plunge the country into civil war, and added: "I cannot consent to be the agent of such a calamity."

On that same day the South Carolina commissioners presented their official credentials at Washington, which on the next day were declined. Georgia declared secession January 2, 1861, and took possession of the United States arsenal in Augusta and Forts Pulaski and Jackson. The Southern states, one by one, kept "going out of the Union," as secession was termed. On February 1st the rebels seized the United States mint at New Orleans. February 9th, that year, a provisional constitution was adopted at Montgomery, Alabama, it being the constitution of the United States "reconstructed" to suit their purpose. Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, was chosen president, and Alexander H. Stevens, of Georgia, vice-president of the "Confederate States of North America." Jeff Davis was inaugurated February 18, 1861, and President Lincoln on March 4th. April 12, 1861, the surrender of Fort Sumter was demanded of Major Anderson, but he stoutly protested. Fire was at once commenced upon the little garrison of about sixty men by thousands of guns in the hands of the rebel troops. Sunday morning, April 14th, the news flashed everywhere over the country that Fort Sumter had been surrendered by the brave commander. Thus commenced the long-drawn-out Civil war.

"Slow to resolve, be swift to Do!  
Teach ye the False, how fights the True!"

On Monday, April 15th, President Lincoln issued this famous proclamation to the people of the country:

*"Whereas, The laws of the United States have for some time past, and are now opposed and the execution thereof obstructed, in the states of South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals; now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought to call forth the militia of the several states of the Union to the number of seventy-five thousand, in order to suppress said combinations and to cause the laws to be duly executed.*

*"The details for this subject will be immediately communicated to the state authorities through the war department. I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and to aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity*



and the existence of our National Union and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs long endured. I deem it proper to say that the first services assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to re-possess the forts, places and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the object aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of or interference with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within twenty days from this date.

"Deeming the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, by virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The senators and representatives are, therefore, summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at twelve o'clock noon, on Thursday the fourth day of July next; then and there to consider and determine such measures as in their wisdom the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

"In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the city of Washington, the fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

"By the President,

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State."

Seventy-five thousand men were not enough to crush the South—no nor did ten times that number suffice, but the work of raising men under the numerous calls—75,000, 200,000, 300,000, 500,000 and other calls—was pushed forward in order to raise a sufficient force to put down the Rebellion. Iowa furnished more than seventy thousand men, from first to last, in the civil conflict.

Coming now to the history made in that war by the people of Sac county, it should be stated that when Fort Sumter was fired upon in April, 1861, the population in this county was only two hundred and forty-six persons. At the end of the war it had only reached a few more than three hundred, hence it could not be expected that many soldiers could be mustered from Sac county in defense of the flag of the Union.

During the civil conflict Sac county did all in her power to furnish volunteers and care for soldiers' families while such men were fighting at the front in the Southland. The minutes of the board of county supervisors in 1863 notes this: "Ordered, that Sarah E. Cory be allowed the sum of fourteen dollars out of the volunteers fund."

Another order in December of the same year reads: "Ordered that the board offer seventy-five dollars each to any four men who shall volunteer in the United States service, by January 5, 1864."

Other such entries include the following: That "Thirteen dollars be allowed from the volunteer's fund of Sac county to the wife of William Allen, a soldier's wife, who has four children to care for." This was protested by M. S. Lee, member of the board, on the ground that Mr. Allen was not accredited to Sac county by the military records of the department.

In 1864 the war was beginning to be more frightful and serious than at any time before that. In January of that year, the board made this entry: "Ordered that the county offer three hundred dollars to any four men who shall volunteer under the last call of President Lincoln for more troops."

In February, 1864, it was raised to three hundred dollars for any single man who would enlist in the Union army from Sac county.

The great war ended on April 9, 1865, and in August of the same year, thinking well of the valiant services rendered by Sac county soldiers, the board of supervisors made this resolution: "Ordered that Sac county pay the sum of three hundred dollars to each soldier volunteer accredited to this county, who has not already received a bounty for his enlistment." With this was the following patriotic resolution: "Therefore be it resolved, that the prayer of certain petitioners in Sac county, Iowa, be granted with the following expression of sentiment, viz: First, that three hundred dollars bounty be allowed to each soldier who served in said military service from Sac county, Iowa, as so accredited, in putting down the Rebellion—that is, he who really enlisted from Sac county. Second, that the board shall be the judges of who shall receive said bounty, when sufficient evidence is produced. Third, that said bounty shall be paid in the shape of orders drawn on the volunteer fund of said county and delivered after being drawn and shall draw interest from their dates at the rate of ten per cent. per annum until paid."

In September, 1865, it is shown that it was "Ordered that James P. Kromer and James Shelmerdine each be paid three hundred dollars bounty."

The last of such entries appears to be that of October, 1865, when

William Cory was allowed three hundred dollars bounty from the volunteer's fund of Sac county.

From year to year the needy soldiers have been cared for by the county, as well as by the general government. In 1910 the "relief fund" for soldiers in Sac county amounted to one thousand seven hundred and three dollars.

According to the state census reports of 1905, the classified list of Union soldiers residing in Sac county at that date is as follows: Total number soldiers, in county, 176; number who enlisted in Iowa regiments, 53; number in Illinois regiments, 45; number in Wisconsin regiments 21; number in Indiana regiments, 10; number in Ohio regiments, 10.

#### VETERANS IN 1884.

From a list published in the *Sac Sun* in 1884, the following appears to have been the correct list of Civil war veterans drawing pensions in Sac county, given by towns:

Odebolt—H. W. Vandermark, B. F. Stearns, Mart Shelley, John D. Evans, George W. Johnson, widow of comrade McKinney, Cornelius Shea, Arthur H. Montgomery, George Long, William F. Bettis, Jacob Meyer, Catherine (widow of comrade) Mummy, John H. Scott, Asa B. Smith, Charles R. Dingman, Owen K. Boort, John Guilford, John W. Savage, James Level, Hiram B. Smith, Marsh Duane, Simeon Bowker, James M. Stratton.

Sac City—Farnsworth Cobb, A. M. Cory, Denziel Clark, William E. Cooper, Joseph K. Staton, Henry W. Shumake, Byron Hovey, Charles W. Hammond, Harman A. Jones, Alexander Watterson, Catherine (widow of comrade) O'Shea, John T. Wallen, Johanna (widow of comrade) King, William L. Reed, Eli Haradon, Sarah B. (widow of comrade) Grimes, Francis M. Rother, David Ross, McClosky, James E. Armstrong, Truman Churchill.

Wall Lake—Adam Hovender, Wallace Bedford, George Blass, Horace B. Allen, Nathan Allen, William Johnston.

Early—James Magclin, Clarrissa (widow of comrade) McClure, James Shelmerdine.

Fletcher (now Lake View)—Charles Potts.

Grant City—Orin C. Crandall.

Total number, fifty-eight; total amount received monthly as pension, \$476.33.

## SAC COUNTY'S FIRST CAMP FIRE.

In September, 1884, there occurred a splendid old soldiers' Grand Army campfire, in the beautiful grove of the late Judge Eugene Criss, a half mile to the east of Sac City, lasting three days and over. It was participated in by many adjoining towns and cities, and thousands of comrades attended, besides as many more civilians. The grounds were in excellent condition and at their entrance there stood several brazen cannon ready to belch forth on a moment's warning. The program commenced on Tuesday morning, when cannon boomed and musketry was heard up and down the Coon valley, as it had been on Southern battle fields in the Civil-war period. The night was made noisy throughout the entire hours, the "boys" who had worn the blue were in evidence on every hand, in and out of town, with guns and without. It rained during the night, but that made no difference, the old veterans were not afraid of the elements, but kept thinking of other nights of rain and storm, far from home and friends, in a real enemy's land.

On the second day there was a great sham battle enacted and successfully fought between the North and South. This was on the Sac county fair grounds. The Union forces were in command of "General" P. H. Hankins, and the rebel forces were under command of "Lieut.-General" D. Carskaddon. The following is a pen picture of the engagement by the editor of the *Sac Sun* James N. Miller, who was a veteran and took part in the battle:

"Finding the fire from the fort too hot for the skirmishers General Hankins ordered up the reserve commanded by 'Brigadier-Generals' Webster and Goldsmith (assumed titles.) They presented a fine appearance as they marched in solid phalanx across the open field, flags and banners streaming and the band playing inspiring strains under a fearful fire from the rebels, who could be seen mustering their clans for the final conflict. Halting within a hundred yards of the fort, the order to charge was given and with fixed bayonets the boys sprang forward with wild cheers. But within twenty yards of the fort the fire became too hot for mortal men to endure, and for once they wavered, then halted, and finally fled, while the rebels poured out over the breast-works in pursuit. It seemed as if the day was lost, but it was only for a moment. By the superhuman effort of its officers, the line was halted and again formed for a second charge. It seemed like certain death to face the fierce fire from the fort, but it was death or capture to remain. The ammunition was almost exhausted and nothing remained but to charge. "General" Rother was ordered with his command on the left, which

he proceeded to do with great success. Again the order to charge was given, and the boys sprang forward with a wild cheer, answered from the rebel fort with a yell of defiance, and a fire that told of deadly effect upon the advancing foe. Not a shot was fired by the Union forces, until they sprang upon the breastworks, when they poured forth a volley with such terrible results that the gray coats turned and ran for their lives, leaving their dead and wounded. Allee Post captured the flag and Company E took the staff. Cheer after cheer rent the air and the victory was complete. General Carskaddon and all his staff were captured, with three thousand men, the balance of his force escaping across the Cedar river, the Union forces being too much exhausted to follow them. It was a glorious victory and settled the fates of the invading army, which only two days before had come flushed with high hopes of a conquest."

Following the battle, dress parade was held by Commander Hankins and the camp was formally disbanded. Most of the veterans departed by train or otherwise, and the night passed in peace and quietude. The next day the tents were struck, the flags furled and the camp (which was called Camp Eugene Criss, after him who owned the land) resumed the normal state. The old veterans of the Civil War returned to their homes refreshed and inspired by the stirring scenes and each resolved that so long as life lasted the memory of the great conflict should not pass away.

The commands that participated in this reunion of soldiers, and who fought the sham battle, included the following, with some others: Sac City Post No. 284; Jeff C. Davis Post No. 44, of Carroll; Allee Post No. 113, of Manson; Sons of Veterans Post No. 111, Scranton; Lander Post No. 156, Lake City; Col. Goodrich Post No. 117, Odebolt; McPherson Post No. 33, Manning; C. C. Washburn Post No. 282, Grant City; N. P. Wright Post No. 291, Glidden; Bud Hazen Post No. 237, Luck Valley; Belle Post, Kingsley; John T. Compton Post, Churdan; Opedyke Post No. 322, Rockwell City; Company E, Iowa National Guards, Carroll.

In 1886 a second reunion and campfire was held by the soldiers of this section at Sac City, at which almost five hundred veterans were in attendance. Among the features of the occasion was the hanging of a spy and the drumming out of camp of a supposed hog thief. Gen. Josiah Given, of Des Moines, was one of the prominent speakers. A sham battle was also fought this year, as on the former occasion. The gate receipts were about nine hundred dollars. Colonel Temple presented his famous "Union Spy," as-

sisted by local talent. It was by all odds the finest event of all at that reunion. Among the persons who took part as actors and actresses in this play, may be recalled the names of home-folk as follows: Messrs. Parker, Hart, Goldsmith, Derby and Mrs. Nutter, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Derby, Miss Lola Early and Charlie Woodward.

A campfire was held at Wall Lake in February, 1887, and, notwithstanding the fact that the mercury was twenty-two degrees below zero, the soldiers assembled from Sac City, Wall Lake, Lake City and Odebolt and, with the assistance of the ladies, had a most enjoyable occasion. A good supper was prepared by the ladies and the company listened to a rousing speech from Captain Head, of Jefferson.

A great soldiers' reunion for all northwestern Iowa was held at Sac City, in June, 1890, which brought its thousands of old veterans here.

#### SOLDIERS' MONUMENTS.

Among the beautiful soldiers' monuments in Sac county is the one at Sac City, in Monumental square, opposite the court house, erected by a one-mill tax provided for by law, in 1892. It was built at an expense of three thousand four hundred and seventy-two dollars, and dedicated November 21, 1894, when it was unveiled in the presence of a large throng of people from all parts of this and adjoining counties. Hon. Philip Schaller acted as presiding officer of the day. The cord which held the draping of the statute was unloosened by little Miss Emily Needham, of Lake View. Chairman A. B. Smith, of Odebolt, presented the monument to the county, and was replied to by County Supervisor M. E. Wright. I. A. Cory, who fied on the same spot in 1861 to recruit volunteers, was called out and played again the stirring music he had played thirty-four years before. The speaker of the day was Hon. George D. Perkins, member of Congress and editor of the *Sioux City Journal*, who made a long, telling and well-received oration. During his remarks he stated, "Sac county was a babe in the arms of Iowa when the Civil War broke out. It was little then that you could give. The federal census only gave you two hundred and forty-seven population in 1860, and of course not many could be expected from so few, but you sent some, even under the early calls and Sac county is thereby credited with ten or a dozen altogether. But after the war many soldiers returned and sought homes and fought here as pioneers. Iowa and Sac county owes to them a debt of gratitude. You have put up this monument here for the Union soldiers; a tribute



to the defenders, in the name of the soldier citizenship of Sac county for the republic. In this broad spirit you dedicate your work and in this spirit it is to be remembered of you while its foundations endure."

So large was the throng in attendance that the opera hall would not hold the people and the Presbyterian church was used for an overflow place, and there Mr. Perkins spoke for a short time, as well as several others, including Reverend Whitfield, Chairman Charles Early and others. Campfires were held at the Methodist Episcopal church in the evening and also at the Baptist Institute chapel, W. J. Dixon presiding at the former and W. H. Hart at the latter.

This monument was erected by contractors Woods, McNeely & Company, of Marshalltown, Iowa, from Barre granite, and the bronze statue was by the world-famous Maurice J. Powers, of New York. The Hon. George D. Perkins secured through Congress four five-ton condemned cannon, which defend each of the four corners of the park, now so attractive to the passers-by. The monument consists of four bases and the entire structure is nineteen feet high, with the volunteer infantrymen in bronze surmounting the granite shaft and spacious bases. The weight of the monument is thirty-two tons.

The corner-stone was laid with Masonic rites, August 5, 1892. The Iowa State Band and several drum corps were present. Addresses were made by W. H. Hart, of Sac City, and pioneer E. Criss served as officer of the day. Many articles were deposited in the corner-stone.

The names of every soldier who served from Sac county in the Civil War has been inscribed upon this monument, except "Chan" Browning, Laws and John Bugr, and this list is as follows:

George C. Browning, Company D, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, died February 28, 1864.

William Cory, Company H, Tenth Iowa Infantry, died June 6, 1886.

Harvey W. Cory, Company H, Tenth Iowa Infantry.

Thaddeus A. Grey Company C, Eighth Iowa Infantry.

John Alexander, Second Battery of Light Artillery, died February 19, 1908.

J. W. Tiberghien, Company H, Eighth Iowa Infantry.

Henry C. Hubbard, Company A, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry, died January 2, 1863.

James Shelmerdine, Company A, Twenty-sixth Infantry.

James Kromer, Company A, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry.



George W. Birch, Company A, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry, died December 19, 1881.

William G. Wine, Company I, Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry.

Hugh Cory, Company K, Seventh Iowa Cavalry.

C. W. Tuffs, Company B, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, died November 10, 1876.

George W. Porter, Company L, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.

John Duncan, Company L, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, died October 15, 1903.

W. R. Nevin, Company M, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, died September 17, 1896.

Jeremiah Bugr, Company E, Sixth Iowa Cavalry.

J. O. Tuffs, Company D, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry, died June 21, 1903.

On the sides of the base of the monument are the words "Shiloh," "Gettysburg," "Vicksburg," and "Winchester," while on the one side of the shaft is the inscription, "Erected by the Citizens of Sac County, Iowa, to the Memory of Her Soldier Heroes of the Civil War."

"Dedicated November 21, 1894."

Another fine monument to the heroes of the Rebellion is that erected in the new addition of Oakland cemetery, which is described in the city chapter of this work.

#### INSPECTION OF THE IOWA SOLDIERS' HOME.

Under appointment, Hon. Phil Schaller, of Sac City, in 1906 inspected the Soldiers' Home, at Marshalltown, and in his report he gives the following as the daily allowance for food stuffs at that state institution: 355 pounds of beef; 300 pounds of mess pork, bacon or sausage, or 380 pounds of pork loin, or 350 pounds of ham, along with 40 pounds of sugar, 200 pounds of flour, 20 pounds of coffee, two pounds of tea, five bushels of potatoes, 160 gallons of milk, 40 pounds of butter, and two bushels of beans and pickles and other relishes.

#### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

In the spring of 1898 war was declared against the government of Spain, and President William McKinley issued the following proclamation:

"Whereas, a joint resolution of Congress was approved on the twentieth day of April, 1898, entitled 'Joint resolution for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain

relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect,' and

"Whereas, by an act of Congress entitled 'An act to provide for temporarily increasing the military establishments of the United States in time of war and for other purposes,' approved April 22, 1898, the President was authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the Army of the United States:

"Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, and deeming sufficient occasion to exist, have thought fit to call forth volunteers to the aggregate number of one hundred and twenty-five thousand in order to carry into effect the purpose of said resolution; the same to be apportioned, as far as practicable, among the several states and territories and the District of Columbia, according to population, and to serve two years, unless sooner discharged. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the proper authorities through the war department.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington, this twenty-third day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

(Seal.)

"By the President:

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

"JOHN SHERMAN,

"Secretary of State."

At the date of this war Sac county had two thousand two hundred and ninety-nine men subject to military duty, and many were only too eager to participate in the war with Spain, but owing to the fact that the number of men required to suppress the Spaniards in their attempt to hold Cuba in enslavement and tyranny was so limited only a few were permitted to enlist from Sac county. Among such were those of the Forty-second Regiment, who had been citizens of this county at one time or another, or were at the date of the war, namely: Samuel B. Culp, of Company C; Daniel S. Spangler, Company D; Harry S. Blackman, Company H; David C. Conner, Company I; B. Hutcheson, Company B; Eugene R. Allen, Company C;

Richard M. Schoonmaker, Company D; Claude G. Bennick, Company M; Roy S. Parker and Gib Mason.

COMPANY M, IOWA NATIONAL GUARD.

In the summer of 1900 Company M, Iowa National Guard, was organized at Sac City, and in June, 1901, a fine armory was provided for them, but in a few years things changed about and the company was disbanded and organized at Cherokee. The armory was later used for a tobacco warehouse and finally destroyed by fire.

Upon the return of the Spanish-American soldiers to Iowa, the *Sac Sun* had the following editorial on that event:

"The Fifty-first Iowa Regiment reached Council Bluffs on Monday last (November, 1898) and a royal welcome was accorded them by a vast multitude that had assembled from all western Iowa. At the parade were seen Governor Shaw and his staff, and many prominent Iowans, a dozen bands of music, with the officers and men of the Fifty-first Regiment in full uniform. At the formal ceremony of welcome, Hon. John N. Baldwin, of Council Bluffs, presided. Governor Shaw addressed the throng, as did Congressman Hull, Fred White, Lafayette Young, Judge McPherson and Mayor Jennings, of Council Bluffs. The 'boys' were given a big dinner and then took the train for Des Moines and other southern Iowa points. There were only eight companies that took part in the parade and ceremonies; the others, including the Council Bluffs company, arrived later in the day and were enthusiastically welcomed. As the train reached the towns, namely, Council Bluffs, Villisca, Glenwood, Knoxville, Shenandoah, Oskaloosa, Creston, Bedford, Corning, Red Oak, formal greetings were accorded them. But the best of all was having the privilege of embracing friends at home and sitting at home with loved ones. There are homes in Iowa in which the return of the brave boys call up fresh sorrow for some soldier lads whose life was yielded in his country's cause; but happily these sorrowing homes are fewer than could have been expected when the call for troops was made. Iowa soldiers return to civil life crowned with honors, filled with patriotic zeal, and no doubt glad to resume the vocations they pursued before their enlistment."

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The first post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Sac county was that organized at Odebolt, No. 117, in the fall of 1882—at least that seems

to be the opinion of the few surviving comrades in the county today. Its number indicates that Odebolt was first to form a post here. The history of this post runs as follows:

At Odebolt, Col. Goodrich Post No. 117 was organized December 22, 1882, by Col. C. G. Wright, of Denison, Iowa, with the following charter membership: W. W. Stanfield, H. W. Stratton, D. H. Waterman, D. Leshner, W. E. Mill, J. Austin, William Graham, H. H. Bangs, H. W. Vandermark, Henry Keck, J. W. Burnside, Asa B. Smith, D. W. Flack, George Conant, M. D. Fox, Oscar Draper, N. Kenady, H. Hovender, J. M. Stratton, F. F. Webster, S. Bowker, W. H. Hess.

This post has carried on its muster rolls one hundred and eight veterans of the Civil War. At one time it was the strongest post in Sac county, and there is only one old soldier in the vicinity of Odebolt who has not joined this post. It has been reduced by removals and deaths until only eleven now remain. Twenty-four are buried in the Odebolt cemetery. Soon the last soldier of that terrible conflict, who settled in Odebolt will have answered the last call!

In passing it should be stated that the first elective officers of this post of Grand Army men were as follows: D. W. Flack, commander; W. W. Stanfield, senior vice-commander; J. W. Burnside, junior vice-commander; William Graham, adjutant.

The officers in February, 1914, are: W. H. Hess, commander; L. Olney, senior vice-commander; W. H. Mitt, junior vice-commander; M. D. Fox, adjutant.

Probably the second post to organize in the county was the one at Grant City, known as No. 282, which for years was a strong post, but, its numbers having been cut down by death and removals, the charter was given up and what few soldiers there are left in that vicinity attend meetings and belong to the Lake City Post in Calhoun county.

Gen. W. T. Sherman Post No. 284, at Sac City, was originally organized under the name of Sac Post No. 284, and retained that name until the death of General Sherman, and in 1891 was changed, by order of the state department, as will be observed by the following record:

"Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 11, 1891.

"Special Order No. 113 (series of 1890-91).

"Post No. 284, Department of Iowa, G. A. R., having made the first and earliest claim to assume the name of Gen. W. T. Sherman, which the death

of that eminent and esteemed commander made possible to do so, and having by vote of said post duly certified to these headquarters adopted such name of Gen. W. T. Sherman in lieu of 'Sac,' by which it has since been known, such change in name is hereby approved and the said post will hereafter be enrolled and known as the Gen. W. T. Sherman Post No. 284, Department of Iowa, G. A. R.

"M. P. MILLS,  
Deputy Commander.

"Officially signed :

"CHARLES J. LONGLEY,  
"Assistant Adjutant-General."

In 1889, through the generosity of D. Carr Early, this post was provided with an eighty-dollar historical record book, which was large, well ruled and planned to last many years. It was made the subject of a lengthy set of resolutions. The book contains the history and record of the post from first to last.

By public subscription and a stock company, known as the Gen. W. T. Sherman Hall Association, organized in July, 1891, with Phil Schaller as its president and Sidney Smith its secretary, the present beautiful post hall that adorns the west side of the city park, known as Monumental park, was erected of brick at a considerable expense. It is the home of this post and here the Grand Army, the Sons of Veterans and Woman's Relief Corps have always met since its construction. It is well furnished, and its walls are embellished with flags, banners and charters of the several orders.

This post had for its charter members: Harlow J. Baxter, private in Company K, Twenty-third Wisconsin Infantry; Hayman A. Jones, private in Company D, Fifth Iowa Infantry; Thomas B. Mansfield, private in Company E, Fifty-second Ohio Infantry; John T. Watson, corporal in Company I, Twenty-second Ohio Infantry; Phil Schaller, sergeant in Company E, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry; David W. Graff, private in Company L, Second Illinois Cavalry; Charles E. Lane, private in Company C, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry; Charles D. Goldsmith, private in Company I, Fifty-sixth New York Infantry; David W. Moffatt, private in Company B, Twelfth Illinois Infantry; Gilbert Wilcox, private in Company C, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry; Chauncey Kester, private in Company F, Eighth New York Artillery; Frank Pilloud, private in Company E, Second Iowa Cavalry; George M. Parker, private in Company H, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry; Henry Schanck, corporal in Company F, Twelfth Illinois Infantry; James

N. Miller, private in Company A, Twelfth West Virginia Infantry; Preston H. Hankins, private in Company D, Seventeenth Illinois Infantry; John Butler, corporal in Company D, Second Iowa Cavalry; Alexander Watterson, private in Company D, Fourth Vermont Infantry; Frederick Seitz, private in Company D, Twentieth Iowa Infantry; Aurelius Barney, private in Company D, Sixty-sixth Illinois Infantry; William E. Cooper, private in Company K, Sixteenth Illinois Infantry; James A. Sawyer, private in Company D, Sixty-fifth Illinois Infantry; Cassius E. Hankins, private in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Infantry; James W. McClosky, corporal in Company B, Fifth Iowa Infantry.

The first officers elected in this post included the following comrades: P. H. Hankins, post commander; J. L. Watson, senior vice-commander; H. A. Jones, junior vice-commander; George M. Parker, adjutant; Phil Schaller, quartermaster; C. E. Lane, chaplain; H. C. Graff, officer of the day; H. J. Baxter, officer of the guard; D. W. Graff, quartermaster sergeant; C. E. Hankins, sergeant major.

The post was organized at the Knights of Pythias hall and were then taken to the old Hendrickson house, for "an elegant banquet," as they had told their wives and lady friends. The ladies were there in waiting and when the dining hall was opened they found only this bill of fare in waiting for them: Tin-plates, hard-tack, sow-belly, beans, hominy, coffee without milk or cream. After this "feast," all enjoyed a genuine soldier's dance.

The post at Sac City now has a membership of thirty-six old Civil-War soldiers. There have been enrolled at different dates one hundred and fifty-seven soldiers' names on the books of this post. The officers in 1914 are as follows: M. C. Haradon, commander; George Matson, senior vice-commander; Perry Myrick, junior vice-commander; W. H. Johnson, adjutant; D. M. Belt, quartermaster; Hugh Cory, sergeant; B. C. Hovey, chaplain; N. B. Toole, officer of the day; J. Sawyer, officer of guard.

At Schaller, there was a post known as W. D. Price No. 392, organized either in 1885 or 1886, and at one time had eighteen members on its rolls, but it has decreased to six and only three of these reside in Schaller. They still hold a charter, having paid up their per capita to the state department.

There is also a small post at Early, and one at Wall Lake, all of which are feeling the touch of time's hand, and ere long must surrender their charter, or unite with the largest post now in the county, the Sac City post above named and described.

## SONS OF VETERANS.

Many years ago it appeared to the sons and grandsons of soldiers of the Civil War, living in Sac City, that it would be wise to form a camp of that country-wide organization, The Sons of Veterans, and it was accomplished forthwith. In 1911 the camp had a membership of almost thirty sons and grandsons of the "boys in blue" who fought from '61 to '65 in order to preserve intact the Union. Meetings are held at Gen. W. T. Sherman post room of the Grand Army of the Republic in Monumental square, in the heart of the city. But a few years more and the last Civil War soldier will be gone, and it is highly proper that these, their offspring, shall perpetuate the loyalty and patriotism their brave sires possessed. But for some reason, the younger generation does not fully interest themselves in such matters, and this camp has virtually suspended operations, which is to be greatly regretted.



## CHAPTER XIII.

### CHURCH HISTORY.

The religious element predominates in this county and from the earliest date churches of various denominations have been sustained. Good congregations have been organized and fine church edifices have been from time to time erected, both in and outside the towns of the county. The Methodist Episcopal and the Presbyterians seem to now be in the lead in membership and churches.

The state census reports for Iowa in 1905 give this on churches in Sac county:

	Number of Congregations.	Value of Property.	Member- ship.
Baptist (Regular) -----	3	\$ 9,200	379
Catholic -----	4	37,600	849
Congregational -----	2	5,400	125
Episcopal -----	1	2,500	24
Latter Day Saints-----	1	1,000	56
Lutheran -----	5	24,300	724
Methodist Episcopal -----	12	39,400	1,577
Presbyterian -----	9	48,700	710
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	37	\$168,100	4,444

### METHODISM.

At this date there are the following Methodist churches within Sac county: Sac City, with a membership of three hundred and fifty; church property valued at thirty-four thousand dollars; Sac City circuit, Schaller, Wall Lake, Odebolt, Nemaha, Lake View, Early, Bethel on Wall Lake charge, and Pleasant View on Lake View charge.

## SAC CITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Here was the birthplace of Methodism in Sac county. The date was in the summer months of 1855, fifty-nine years ago. The founder was Rev. William Black, a missionary traveling on the frontier of Iowa, working under the auspices of the Iowa conference. Record and tradition says that it was early in the summer just named that Mrs. Isabella Cory, wife of F. M. Cory, crossed the river to a spot where now stands the beautiful Methodist church, and, kneeling in prayer, asked God to send his gospel and plant a church in this new land. Her prayer was answered. The report of the Rev. William Black at the first session of the Upper Iowa conference in 1856 led to his appointment as pastor of Sac City mission circuit, and to the appointment of Rev. Landon Taylor as presiding elder of Sioux City district, which comprised most of the present territory of the great Northwest Iowa conference. A class was formed at Sac City and meetings were held at the homes of the members, including that of F. M. Cory, until the completion of the first school house in 1857. The next meeting place was the new school building of 1861, and in 1871 when the brick school house was erected that was used by the Methodist people of Sac City. Rev. T. J. Barr erected the first church building, which was dedicated March 12, 1876. It stood on the site of the present church building, on Main street and was dedicated by Bishop Andrews. It was remodeled in 1893, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars and served the congregation until the erection of the present structure, which was dedicated by Bishop B. I. Ives, March 15, 1903. Its cost was twenty thousand dollars, not including the lot. Rev. Walter Torbet was pastor at the time this church was erected. In 1903 a parsonage property was purchased and it is now worth four thousand dollars. This was the first denomination to build in the county. Its first church cost two thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars and a hundred dollars more for the lot on which it was erected.

The following have served as pastors of this church, each serving one year when not otherwise indicated: William Black (three years), C. J. Campbell (a few months and died in the work), B. C. Barnes, D. N. Mallory, D. C. Billings, Henry Pillbeam, C. F. McLean, Darwin, W. W. Mallory (two years), A. J. Groom, J. M. Dudley, J. Manning, White, William Preston (two years), C. W. Clifton, A. Jameison, T. J. Barr (two years), O. S. Bryan, B. W. Graham, J. A. Ziegler, W. W. Brown, Robert Smylie (three years), E. C. Warren, Thomas Carter (two years), H. Grace (two years), G. H.

Hastings, William Preston (two years), O. S. Bryan, O. K. Maynard, J. W. Lothian, Hugh Hay (four years), E. S. Johnson (three years), Walter Torbet (five years), W. A. Black, Hugh Hay (two years), Thomas Andrew (two years), Henry Black Burns (resigned), Rev. Reginald D. Acheson, present pastor, who came September, 1913.

## PLEASANT HILL M. E. CHURCH.

Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal church, at a beautiful site in Clinton township, this county, was organized January 1, 1885, with charter members as follows: Charles Manley, Susie Manley, A. L. Manley, Edith Manley, Simon M. Barnt, Addie A. Barnt.

A frame structure, now valued at two thousand five hundred dollars, was erected in 1890. The present total membership is forty. The following have served as pastors at this point since the history of the society commenced: Revs. James Hamerson, 1885; Records, 1885-87; A. Brown, 1887-90; E. R. Mahood, 1890-91; E. S. Johnson, 1891-92; C. M. Phoenix, 1892-94; S. L. Eddy, 1894-96; James Bally, 1896-98; O. F. Chittie, 1898-1900; C. G. Coulter, 1900-01; A. E. Slessor, 1901-04; A. R. Cuthbert, 1904-05; George H. Marcham, 1905-07; A. A. Pittinger, 1907-08; D. F. Robbins, 1908-09; Nathaniel Harris, 1909-10; I. J. Harris, 1910-11; J. R. Tumbleson, 1911 and present pastor.

## NEMAHA M. E. CHURCH.

What was originally known as Bethel church, but now as the First Methodist Episcopal church of Nemaha, was organized in the Fanning school house in 1886 (called Early circuit). The first services were held by E. C. Alford; the first regular pastor was Rev. A. A. Wilcox. The conference in 1887 was held at Sioux City. The only surviving members of this church, who were among the charter members, are as follows: Mr. Fred Deppe, Mrs. Caroline Deppe, Mrs. Rose Deppe Patterson, Mr. A. E. Fanning and Mrs. Emma Stenhouse. The present membership is one hundred and three. The estimated value of church property is, church, \$3,100, and parsonage, \$1,100.

A church building was erected in 1889, under pastor E. E. Thompson. It was one mile north and one mile west of the present location. In 1900 it was removed to its present site in Nemaha. It is still a good edifice. It has been enlarged so that its seating capacity has been increased one-half.

The following have served as pastors in this church: E. C. Alford, 1886; A. A. Wilcox, 1887; E. E. Thompson, 1888; E. L. Thompson, 1889; John E. Clearwater, September, 1890; George F. Cliff, 1891, when the church was attached to Sulphur Springs; A. J. Langdell, 1893; Freeman Franklin, 1894; W. W. Shuler, 1895; H. L. Farr, 1896; J. R. Faus, 1897; F. M. Pratt, 1900; it then became the Nemaha charge. Following Rev. Pratt came Samuel Knoer, 1903; R. E. Willis, 1906; George W. Bruce, 1908; S. L. Eddy, 1910; Rev. E. Robbins, the present pastor, 1911. These conference years all ended either in the months of October or September.

#### ODEBOLT M. E. CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Odebolt was organized in 1877, with the following charter members: Rev. C. H. P. Faus, organizing minister, A. D. Peck and wife, M. D. Fox and wife, Robert Waddell and wife, James Taylor and wife, S. E. Smith and wife, M. Bartlett and wife, Asa Smith and wife, J. W. Southwell and wife.

A parsonage was erected in 1877-78. The first church built in 1879, was remodeled in 1898 and later rebuilt into the present church. The present valuation of the church property, church and parsonage, is thirteen thousand dollars. The present membership is two hundred and sixty-five.

The following is a complete list of the pastors of this church: O. H. Faus, 1877; W. W. Brown, 1878; D. M. Beams, 1879; R. S. Fysh, 1880; William Preston, 1881; Henry Brown, 1882; H. K. Hastings, 1884; James Hughes, 1887; H. W. Mahood, 1888; J. B. Trimble, 1890; William Whitfield, 1893; A. Brown, 1895; W. J. Carr, 1897; W. C. Wasser, 1900; J. L. Whitney, 1902; J. L. Gillies, 1904; W. A. Black, 1907; W. W. Bolinger, 1908; F. S. Cole, 1910; J. A. Lary, 1911 (died March, 1912, on the charge); H. G. Campbell, supplied from June, 1912, to October 1, 1912; M. P. Arrasmith, appointed October 19, 1912, and is still pastor of the church.

#### EARLY M. E. CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Early was organized in 1883 with a few members under Rev. Robert Smylie, then pastor at Sac City. Nearly all of the first members have passed from the cares and duties of church life on earth. James Jackson still remains and Mrs. Phoebe Reeder only recently died. There are now over two hundred members in this church. Some of the brightest, ablest ministers of the Northwest Iowa conference have served

at Early, and many a successful revival season has been experienced here. The church building was erected in 1888, and served well until 1904, when larger and better quarters had to be provided for the increasing congregation. These improvements were made under Rev. W. H. Flint's administration. The present (1914) pastor, Rev. George H. Wareham, is completing his third year, is an active Christian worker, having been in the ministry twenty-five years. He has caused numerous improvements to be made to both church and parsonage. The building is now too small and steps are being taken to rebuild. The number in Sunday school is now one hundred and seventy-five, with sixty in the Epworth League. The pastor's Bible class included forty-two young couple of married people.

#### WALL LAKE M. E. CHURCH.

In October, 1878, occurred the first preaching and Sunday school services of the Methodist people at Wall Lake, but no church was organized until 1883, when a society was perfected with the following members and officers: Rev. J. F. Black, pastor; N. L. Grier, J. O. Jacobs, F. Chandler, W. H. Ehlert, T. F. Marks, W. H. Peck, Mrs. W. H. Peck, constituting the board of trustees. The first regular church building, a frame structure, was dedicated March 16, 1884. The present total membership of this church is seventy; the valuation of all church property is about five thousand two hundred dollars. The various pastors who have served at Wall Lake are John Howerson, William Records, Alonzo Brown, E. R. Mahood, E. S. Johnson, J. H. Snow, Bennett Mitchell, E. R. Mahood, T. S. Bassett, James Bollz, Charles H. Kamphoefner, R. D. Acheson, C. N. McMillan, F. W. Whitford and E. C. Palmer.

Belonging to the Wall Lake circuit is Bethel church, organized at Mark's school house in 1875, by Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Peck, Mr. and Mrs. R. Waddell, Mr. and Mrs. M. Bartlett, Mrs. Marks, later joined by B. H. Mummey and wife, M. D. Fox and wife, S. E. Smith and wife, Mrs. Wappin, James Taylor and wife. Meetings were held in Mark's school house, Taylor school house and Fox school house, alternately. A building erected in 1889, was dedicated August 4, 1889. The present membership is thirty-eight and the value of the society's property is estimated at one thousand five hundred dollars. The following have served as pastors: O. H. P. Foss, W. W. Brown, D. M. Beemis, William Preston, R. S. Fish, Henry Brown Cummings, H. K. Hast-

ings, James Hughes, H. W. L. Mahood, J. B. Trimble, E. S. Johnson, F. H. Snow, Bennett Mitchell, E. R. Mahood, T. S. Bassett, James Bollz, Charles H. Kamphoefer, R. D. Acheson, C. N. McMillan, F. W. Whitford, E. C. Palmer.

#### LAKE VIEW M. E. CHURCH.

Lake View Methodist Episcopal church was organized in October, 1883, by Rev. J. R. C. Layton, presiding elder of the Ft. Dodge district, and E. C. Warren, pastor of the Sac City church, with members, C. G. Peck, H. D. Peck, Mrs. Rudolph Hierche, Mrs. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Robinson. The first church building was erected of frame in 1885, dedicated in June of that year and cost one thousand six hundred dollars. The second church was built of frame in 1898 and cost three thousand five hundred dollars. January 10, 1909, this building was burned. During the summer of 1909 a stone and brick structure was erected at a cost of eleven thousand dollars. It was dedicated in November, 1909. The present membership of this church is seventy-one, and the estimated value of church property is eleven thousand five hundred dollars.

The following have served as pastors of the Lake View church: E. C. Warren, 1883-85; John Hammerson, 1885-87; A. Brown, 1887-90; E. S. Johnson, 1890-92; C. M. Phoenix, 1892-94; S. L. Eddy, 1894-96; James Ballz, 1896-98; O. F. Chittick, 1898-1900; C. G. Coulter, 1900-01; A. E. Slessor, 1901-04; A. R. Cuthbert, 1904-05; George H. Wareham, 1905-07; A. A. Pittenger, 1907-08; D. F. Robins, 1908-09; Nath Harris, 1909-10; I. J. Harris, 1910-11; J. R. Tumbleson, 1911 and still in charge.

#### THE SCHALLER CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Schaller was organized October 1, 1879, by Rev. William Vivian. The first building was erected in 1883 at a cost of four thousand dollars and the present church edifice, a beautiful, thoroughly modern styled brick church building, was built in 1911-12, at a cost of sixteen thousand dollars. The property of this society is now valued at twenty thousand dollars. The total present membership is three hundred. The property includes a good parsonage. The following is supposed to be a complete list of the various pastors who have served at Schaller: William Vivian, 1879-80; J. W. Linn, 1880-82; J. W. Sputhwell, 1882-83; J. N. Mills, 1883-84; S. Snyder, 1884-85; James Hughes, 1885-87; R. M. Kiernan,



GERMAN M. E. CHURCH, NEAR ODEBOLT





1887-89; H. L. Smith, 1889-90; A. Brown, 1890-93; J. J. Gardner, 1893-94; W. W. McGuire, 1894-97; Bennett Mitchell, 1897-99; J. T. Lee, 1899-03; L. A. McCaffree, 1903-05; W. P. Empey, 1905-08; J. L. Whiting, 1908-10; F. B. Nixon, 1910 and still serving as pastor in 1914.

With one of the best and most valuable churches in Sac county, and a strong membership, they have been the means of doing great religious good in Schaller and community, and are still a power.

#### FREE METHODISTS.

The Free Methodist church at Sac City was organized in 1890 with a membership of only nine former members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. At first, meetings were held in the private homes of the members. In 1897 the society was reorganized, and meetings continued to be held at the homes of members for a short time, after which the society leased Robbins hall, where the meetings were conducted for many years. In the autumn of 1910 a lot was bought on Early street. In March, 1911, they purchased the old Baptist church, a frame building, which they moved to their lot, and this constitutes the present property of the society. The old building was placed on a new foundation and on September 3, 1911, the building was dedicated. Since this society was formed the following pastors have served: F. E. Eaton, F. I. Waters, W. W. Vinson, J. H. Brittain, T. J. Gates, F. E. Eaton, O. L. Mossman, W. W. Crippen, P. H. Arlington and Maude Wallace. This people have endured great hardship and self-denial in gaining for themselves the comfortable church home that they now enjoy, a place in which they can worship God "after the dictates of their own conscience."

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF THE COUNTY.

According to the state census returns of 1905, Sac county had nine Presbyterian churches, each provided with a building of their own. They are now, as they were then, next in strength to the highest in the county, the Methodist Episcopal being first in point of churches and membership. The Presbyterian societies within Sac county, according to the report just mentioned, held property to the amount of forty-eight thousand seven hundred dollars, one-fourth of all in the county.

The Sac City church of this denomination was organized May 24, 1874, by Rev. L. Littell, with a charter membership of thirteen, as follows: Mr.

(10)

and Mrs. O. F. Aldrich, Mr. and Mrs. Angus Brown, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Galbraith, and Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Balsey. From this small membership the church has grown to nearly three hundred members. Concerning the church buildings, it should be stated that at first the foundation of the church was purchased of the Baptist society, which had laid it in July, 1875, but failed to add its superstructure. The Presbyterians purchased it in 1877 and completed the structure. This building served until 1899, when the present edifice was constructed at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars. The corner stone was laid by Rev. John D. McClintock, D. D., of Sioux City, on November 23, 1899. The various pastors of this church have included the following George Carroll, 1877-81; A. S. Foster, 1881-82; James Stickle, 1882-88; G. W. Morgan, 1888-89; D. W. Cassatt, 1889-91; C. A. Berger, 1891-96; R. H. Chittenden, Ph. D., 1896-1902; George M. Rourke, 1902-06; J. W. Countermine, 1906-11; R. L. Barackman, 1911 to the present time.

#### ODEBOLT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Odebolt was organized in 1878 by Rev. A. K. Baird, field missionary. Those directly connected with the first organizing steps were: William Sampson, John Bruce, Hiram McFall, Mr. VanDusen, Mesdames Rhodecker, Frank Burleigh, Lee. A frame church was erected in 1880 and sold in 1900, when a new edifice was built. The estimated value of the church property is fixed now at ten thousand five hundred dollars. This includes the manse erected in 1902. The church has a fine planned dining room and kitchen, with a spacious reception room. All are frame structures. The total membership is now one hundred. This church is situated on the corner of Maple and Third streets and is a very attractive structure. The following have served as pastors: E. R. Carroll, A. K. Baird, H. P. Fullenweider, J. C. Gilkerson, F. N. Vail, W. O. Thompson, William Craig, J. N. Elliott, H. H. McMasters, J. C. Melrose, F. D. McCrear, E. E. Hastings, Miller, Tate, D. A. McLoud, and the present pastor, Robert McInturff, who came among this people in 1911.

The elders of the church in February, 1914, are James Cranston, John Currie, J. C. Fuchs, William Umberger and F. Searight. One account gives the charter members as follows: William Sampson, Mrs. Will Lee, Mrs. Rhodecker, Hiram McFall and John Bruce. The officers at this date are: F. Searight, clerk; Charles Nelson, treasurer; board of trustees, F. M. Meyer, Dr. A. Groman, James Crampton and John Currie.

## EARLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The First Presbyterian church at Early was organized in the autumn of 1888 by Dr. Bailey, synodical missionary, and Rev. Pressley. The charter members were William Ellis, Mrs. Mary Stevens, Mrs. J. V. Coats, Mrs. A. R. Gordon, Mrs. T. A. Barrett, Mrs. J. F. Head and Mrs. A. F. Mereness. The membership in January, 1914, was small, but all were devoted workers. In 1890 a church was erected at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars and since then an addition was made costing eight hundred dollars; also a fine manse costing two thousand five hundred dollars. The present estimated value of the church property is six thousand five hundred dollars. The following is the order of pastors who have served this society: Lindsey, Paden, C. J. McConnell, J. P. Linn, John Mustard, H. F. Ford, Gilbert Voories, Dr. Silas Cook, and the present pastor, Rev. T. S. Hughes.

## LYTTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Lytton was organized February 23, 1901, by Rev. A. H. Chittendon, of Sac City, and Capt. A. R. O'Brien, missionary of the Sioux City presbytery, with fifteen charter members. The number now belonging to this church is fifty-two. During the summer of 1900 a church building was erected, and dedicated October 27, 1901, by Rev. Dr. C. H. Purmort, synodical missionary of Iowa. The handsome manse was erected in 1902. The church property here is now valued at four thousand five hundred dollars. The church at Lytton and that at Elm Grove have always been served by the same pastor. This is the only church society in Lytton and the people of both town and surrounding country loyally support it, believing it to be a very beneficial adjunct to the community.

The ruling elders have been M. E. Perkins, H. J. Griffin, C. S. Darling and R. A. McLaughlin. The society has been greatly favored with a first-class set of young men in the ministry, men of marked ability and spirituality. These include the following: E. R. Horton, of McCormick Seminary; H. S. Vincent, of Omaha Seminary; John Spencer, from same, as well as G. A. Beith, John Carr and Douglas Warden; N. M. Tatum, ordained; E. F. Chaffee, ordained; C. B. Day, Omaha Seminary.

At the village of Nemaha there is a Presbyterian church. They own a frame building and are at present supplied by the pastor coming from Early.

## AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Auburn in this county was organized in 1888 with charter members as follows: Rev. S. W. Stophlet, acting as pastor from Lake City, Iowa; F. M. Noe, Mrs. F. M. Noe, Mrs. Emily Williams, Mrs. Mary Dixon, Henry Jones and wife. Services were held the first year in the Moseley Bank building and in 1889 a church was erected at a cost of one thousand eight hundred dollars. It is a frame structure and still in good condition. The membership in January, 1914, was fifty-nine. The valuation of the church property is fixed at three thousand dollars. The following is a list of pastors who have had charge of this church at Auburn: James Stickle, J. C. Mayne, Isaac White, A. J. Harmon, H. Wieland, A. Long, F. M. Tyrell, E. S. Horton, H. P. Gray, W. H. Thompson, F. P. Brewster and W. F. Grundy. The church is now being supplied by Rev. J. D. McCord, of Lake City, Iowa. Rev. W. H. Thompson, who has been absent in Utah four years, expects to return in April this year to become pastor.

## WALL LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The First Presbyterian church of Wall Lake was organized January 25, 1891, by Rev. Stophlet, of Fort Dodge, with the following charter membership: Mrs. A. T. Hiller, George G. Hiller, Mrs. A. M. Bolton, G. W. McIntosh, Mrs. McIntosh, John R. Stuart, Mrs. J. R. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Wilson, Charles Stuart, Albert Hiller, Neil McFarlan, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Strong, Mrs. A. C. Michael, W. S. Bedford, Mrs. E. L. Goodenow, Mrs. Ida T. Adams, Grace B. Adams, Mrs. Ida B. Fairchilds, Miss A. Finley, Mrs. Emily Johnson, Miss K. Bolton, Mrs. A. B. Tinley, Mrs. N. Bell and Mr. and Mrs. R. Hauman.

This church now has a membership of seventy-two. The first meeting was held in Goodenow hall and later in the hall above the hardware store of Johnson Brothers. The present value of church property is five thousand dollars. The pastors who have served this church are Hubert Good, J. C. Mayne, Harmon, Heber Gill, J. E. Spencer, J. J. Youel, F. W. Thomas, G. N. Buchanan and the present pastor, Rev. William Walker.

## SCHALLER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbyterian church at Schaller was organized about 1887 by Rev. Stickle. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. King, Mr. and Mrs.

William Bristol, Miss Mary E. King, Mrs. Bernice Sargent, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Henry Hahne, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hahne, Mr. Henry Hahne and Mrs. Julia Bristol.

A church edifice was erected in 1890, a frame structure costing three thousand dollars and a parsonage about 1889, costing one thousand dollars. The present membership of this church society is one hundred and ten. It may be stated that the present church property is valued at seven thousand dollars. The following have served as pastors: Stickles, Lindsay, Pedeu, C. J. McConnell, Philip Palmer, George Earhart and William M. Jack.

#### BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE COUNTY.

The First Baptist church of Sac City was founded in the winter of 1887-88 and organized, in reality, February 24, 1888, with twenty constituent members. The first deacon elected was W. K. Whiteside; first church clerk, J. W. Garrison; first trustees, A. N. Wyman, Truman Churchill and W. L. Brockman. The first covenant meeting was held March 2, 1888, at the court house, which continued to be the meeting place until that structure was burned in the autumn of 1888, after which services were held in the west room of the White school building. It was seen that a church edifice must be built if the society ever expected to realize the object for which it had been founded, so, in 1892, the following were appointed as a building committee: Messrs. Wyman, Churchill, Brockman, Hayes and John Barlow. The funds were raised sufficient to start the undertaking, success crowned their efforts, and a neat building was dedicated January 29, 1893. This building served well the object for which it had been originally constructed, but a new and larger house was needed and the congregation set about to formulate plans for its erection. The present new beautiful, modern edifice was dedicated Sunday, June 4, 1911. Its cost was about twelve thousand dollars and is located at the corner of Twelfth and Main streets. The handsome building is of the latest style of church architecture—low and spireless, but with a large hemisphere dome over its central part. It is of excellent light colored brick, with a spacious basement, and is sixty-two by sixty-six feet in size. The auditorium room is thirty-one by fifty-two feet, and, with the side doors from other rooms open the seating capacity is fully five hundred. The building committee was composed of L. E. Fitch, Orville Lee, A. T. Brownell, J. H. Grohe, A. N. Weyman, F. C. Hoyt and Mrs. M. A. Warner. The edifice is a credit to the society and an ornament to Sac City.

These pastors have served the Sac City church: L. Lovelace, who conducted the first meetings here in 1887-8 and established the church, remained until he had completed his ninth month, when he was succeeded by Rev. Feather, who remained seven months, and in turn was followed by Rev. R. A. Belsham in December, 1889, closing his pastorate in November, 1890. There was no regular pastor then until August, 1893, when Rev. J. D. Collins accepted a call and commenced November 1st. He was followed in October, 1894, by Rev. D. McMasters, who closed his pastorate in June, 1896, when that venerable Baptist clergyman, Rev. L. N. Call, who for twenty-five years had been pastor in Webster City, this state, was called to this church, giving five years of the richest, ripest years of his long and eventful life as a Baptist minister to the labors of pastor in Sac City, after which he was succeeded in October, 1901, by Rev. J. D. Rumsey, who continued until November 2, 1902. He was followed by Rev. C. A. Tenny, in August, 1903, who served the church faithfully and well until July 24, 1904, and was followed by Rev. J. D. Collins, who was a former pastor. Rev. Collins continued until October 1, 1907, when he resigned to become a member of the faculty of the Sac City Institute. November 24, 1907, Rev. C. G. Wright began his labors here and under him the present church was planned and erected. Next came Rev. Hugh Moore, who came June 1, 1912, and still remains pastor. The present membership of this church is one hundred and ninety-four. A parsonage was erected in 1902 and the present one in 1912-13 at a cost of three thousand dollars.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The only church of the Congregational faith in Sac county at this date is the one at Lake View, which was organized in 1890 with the following charter members: Henry Smith, Jane Smith, C. Burgess, Mrs. Delia L. Boyer, Dr. J. A. Ressigieu and wife, Francis S. Needham, Mrs. Eugenie E. Needham and Ella C. Hamilton. A frame building was erected in 1892 at an approximate cost of one thousand eight hundred dollars. The total membership of the church society today is seventy. The estimated value of the church property is four thousand dollars.

The following have served this congregation as pastors: M. D. Reed, R. L. McCord, T. J. Woodcock, H. G. Cooley, W. G. Little, John Crocker, P. B. West, B. J. Rhodes, C. T. Halbert, I. B. Bickford, Eben Herbert, J. T. Marvin and Alex Russell. The present church clerk is R. M. Paine, who furnished most of the above facts.



## SWEDISH MISSION.

The Swedish Mission Covenant of America has a church at Odebolt, which was formed March 10, 1887, by charter members as follows: P. A. Lindskoog, Rev. P. Nilson, John M. Larson, A. A. Anderson, John Erikson, Andrew Anderson and Edward Eckman. They have now a membership of ninety-two and a church property valued at five thousand dollars. The pastors who have served here are P. Nilson, L. Larson, August Peterson, J. J. Johnson, Oscar Wenstrand, A. G. Johnson, Oscar F. Dahlberg. This band of worshipers have always been true and faithful to the sacred trust imposed upon them.

## CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

St. Joseph's Catholic church at Schaller was a mission for a period of nine years (1895 to 1904), attended by the priest located at Early. It was made a separate parish in 1904. The first resident pastor, Rev. Francis Wrenn, served a year and was succeeded by Rev. William Shannon, who served the congregation two and a half years. Following him came the present pastor, Rev. McNeill. The first church edifice was a frame structure erected on the site of the present beautiful building, which is a pressed brick building erected in 1913 at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars. The old frame church was sold for two hundred dollars to a citizen of the town, who owned a lot cornerwise from the church property and it is being transformed into a modern residence property. Father Wrenn built a fine parsonage next to the church. The present congregation is composed of thirty families in Schaller and the community. During his pastorate, Father McNeill has been diligent and faithful to the sacred trust imposed upon him, and his work is a monument to him for all time among those of the Catholic church in this section of Iowa.

St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wall Lake was organized in 1878. The first of the congregation were P. Halpin, Joseph Wenze and P. Quinn. At first only ten members were in attendance. The first building was burned in 1903 and a new church was erected in 1904 at a cost of five thousand dollars. It is a frame building and fully equipped with all necessities for divine service. The present congregation numbers two hundred baptized persons. The estimated value of lots and buildings is ten thousand dollars. The priest in charge now is Rev. M. C. Daly, who is true and faithful to the great trust imposed upon him. The priest at Wall Lake also attends to the congregation

at Auburn, which was organized several years ago, and is now in a fairly flourishing condition.

St. Martin's Catholic church at Odebolt was organized by Father F. W. Pape about five miles northwest of town, in 1876. He attended a few times and was succeeded by Father Thomas Norton, who in a short time was followed by another. The first services in Odebolt were held in the old town hall. A small frame church was built in 1879. Father Norton was the first at Odebolt and did excellent work in improving the church lots and providing buildings. In 1881 came Father U. Frey, who built the first pastor's residence in 1882. He was the first regular pastor of this church. He also had charge of the work at Grant City and Wall Lake, mission points at that date. He remained until the month of December, 1883, and was followed by Father John Peschong, who remained till the autumn of 1892. He did much toward establishing the church school at Odebolt, which was built in 1886-87 and forms a part of the present excellent school, which is in charge of three sisters from St. Frances of Dubuque, and has an enrollment of about seventy-five daily. The building has been enlarged twice since first constructed. It is valued at about four thousand dollars. In December, 1892, came Rev. Father John Anler, who served the congregation until 1895 and was followed by Father Fred Huessmann, now of Mt. Carmel. He built the present church in 1900 at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars. It is a frame structure facing Hanson's boulevard, and is on grounds two hundred by four hundred feet, all well improved. Father Gustave Wienhold came in October, 1902, and died July 19, 1912, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery here on July 23d. Bishop and priests from abroad were present at his funeral. During his illness, Father M. Stork was appointed to take charge and was made the administrator of his affairs and the parish. The present worthy pastor, Rev. Father L. Schenkelberg, came in October and took charge the last week of that month. He is doing excellent church work. The congregation now has a membership of from four hundred and twenty-five to four hundred and fifty souls. It is estimated that all the church property at Odebolt held by this church has a present value of not far from thirty thousand dollars.

The Catholic church at Early is about as strong as the Odebolt congregation. They erected a brick edifice in about 1899, costing fifteen thousand dollars, under the pastorship of Father Costello. No further facts could be obtained on this congregation.

## GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES.

The First German Evangelical church of Lake View, Iowa, was organized in January, 1913, the first of this denomination in Sac county. It is a mission field opened by the German Evangelical Synod of North America. The charter members of this society were Rev. R. Lorenz, A. Johannasen, John P. Welleson, Ed. Knowalker, H. Paper, O. Weizel and D. Graw. In the summer of 1913 a frame church building was erected and dedicated November 15th of the same year. The structure has a cement foundation of modern cement blocks. The size of the building is twenty-four by forty feet, with an eight by eight tower extending up about fifty feet high. The present value of the church property is about three thousand dollars. The membership of the society is now twelve.

St. Peter's Evangelical church of Coon Valley township was organized in 1878, with a charter membership including the following: G. Arndt, P. Borchett, C. Thislehorn, William Reimann and others. The society was formed by Rev. Fred Schug. The first church building was erected in 1883. The present building was erected in 1908 and cost four thousand four hundred dollars. The total value of church property held by this congregation is ten thousand dollars. The present number of communicants is one hundred and forty. The pastors who have served this people at this point are Revs. Schug, Neuoffer, Volk, Schroeder and the present pastor, A. Schwidder.

There are societies of this denomination at Auburn and Lake View. These are under the charge of the pastor of the Coon Valley church, Rev. Schwidder. The one at Auburn is known as St. John's Lutheran church, organized about 1875, by Rev. Fred Schug. A building was erected about 1893 and the property is now estimated to be worth about one thousand four hundred dollars. There are now twenty-seven communicants. At Lake View the church is known as Immanuel's Lutheran church, organized in 1913 by Rev. Schwidder. The communicants now number thirty-seven. At Auburn the pastors have been Revs. F. Schug, Rickels, Volk and Schwidder.

The German Evangelical Lutheran church at Schaller was organized about 1910 by the following persons: E. D. Christenson, P. A. Nielson, C. K. Anderson, A. N. Anderson, Andrew Andresen, A. Frederickson, Emil Hanke, Christian Christenson, H. B. Andresen, John Christenson and families. A frame church was erected about 1910 at a cost of eight hundred dollars. The first pastor was Rev. Maase, followed by the present pastor, Rev. Boye, who resides at Galva. The congregation now consists of about

twelve families. The society is young and still small in numbers, but is struggling along and ere long will doubtless be on a stronger footing.

Another and much larger and stronger congregation of this denomination is that about fourteen miles southeast of Schaller, in the country, known as the Cook Township Evangelical Lutheran church. It was organized in 1880 by the following members: Kasper Luft, George Bieser, Christian Wetzstein, Johannes Mehlbrech, Conrad Meyers, Wilhelm Kutz, W. F. Rusch, Ludwog Schramm, Christ Frank and Adam Weitzel. A parsonage was erected in 1883 and the first church building built in 1887, until which time meetings were held in different public school houses. The cost of the first building was four hundred dollars, the parsonage costing the same amount. The present church edifice, a plain frame structure, was erected in 1898, at a cost of one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars. This society has a present membership of one hundred and twenty communicants. The estimated value of the property belonging to the church is four thousand dollars. The following have served as pastors in this society: Fred Schug, 1879-1883; L. A. Mueller, 1883-1892; Rev. K. G. Schlegel, 1892-1902; the present pastor is Rev. F. Wolter. Rev. Schug served from Grant City. The first resident pastor was Rev. Mueller, who served at the same time he cared for the church at Wall Lake, where he moved when Rev. Schlegel succeeded him in Cook township. This church in Cook township is a strong society and, under the present pastor is doing a very good work in church life. Its members are very devoted to the cause and work in harmony with the faithful pastor.

Lutheran Emanuel church, of Coon Valley township, was organized in May, 1883, with the following constituent members: Henry Dettmann, William Hecht, August Hilmer, Henry Leege, William Leege, August Roeske, Fred Schwartz and Charles Westphal. The present membership is about thirty. In 1883 the first church was erected at a cost of about eight hundred dollars, and this is the one that has been in use since 1903 as a German school house. It was in 1903 that the new frame church was erected, costing about two thousand dollars. The pastors serving this congregation have been: John Huter, Siegfried Siepker, Theo. Kluforth, John Dorullis, T. Lentz, Otto Woylyer, Herman Wunderlich and John Herbst.

#### THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

This denomination has a society at Auburn. They belong to the "re-organized" branch of the Mormon church, and are as bitterly opposed to the

general workings of the Mormons as any other denomination in the world. The real denominational name is "The Re-organized Church of Latter-Day Saints of Jesus Christ." On October 25, 1874, the first meetings were held at a point in the country about five miles from Auburn, to which place they removed in 1886. Their church building was erected in 1895 at a cost of about one thousand two hundred dollars. The charter members were inclusive of the following persons: W. A. Carroll and wife, David Hain and wife, Jacob Hain, Rufus Perkins and wife, M. B. Skinner and wife, Mrs. Melinda Colvin, Mrs. Cynthe Thompson, Thomas J. Skinner and Mary Jane Cory. Elder W. A. Carroll has been pastor thirty-nine years out of the forty years of the church's existence at this point. David Hain served one year. The present membership is forty-four, and forty-nine have died or moved to other parts since the organization of the church here. It is stated by the pastor of this church that they, as a sect, "are ever loyal to the government of the United States and to the home in which one woman reigns as queen!"

#### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The only society of the Episcopal denomination in Sac county is Holy Trinity church of Sac City, which in 1914 had a membership of twenty-four communicants. The commencement of work here began in May, 1883, when, on the 24th day of that month, Rev. Peter Fox, of Canada, arrived in Sac City. The first services were held May 27th, that year, in the school house. However, prior to this, frequent services had been held by Rev. Mills, of Fort Dodge. On June 19, 1883, a meeting of the people belonging to this religious faith met and Thomas Smith and Mr. Reed were appointed wardens and Edward Baxter, secretary. Plans were there decided upon for the erection of a church building, and the same were soon submitted to carpenters and builders. The work went forward and by November 10th, the same year, services were held in the newly-constructed building, which edifice cost two thousand one hundred and twenty dollars. In the spring of 1902 the church building was enlarged and a chancel and vestry room were added at a cost of about two thousand dollars. Memorial windows have been placed in the church by Thomas Smith, Delmont Goldsmith and Sidney Smith, and a memorial altar by Mrs. Elizabeth Brown. The rectors here have been: Rev. Peter Fox, serving seventeen years, and followed by Rev. Douglas, who continued seven years. At present the church is without a pastor. In 1911 the church records show the officers to be as follows: Mrs. L. A. Wine, secretary, and Mrs. Goldsmith, treasurer.

## THE ADVENTISTS.

At one time there were several members, and a society formed of this denomination, and services were held in the Gordon school house, near Sac City, but of late so many have removed that services are not continued.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

There are three organizations of this denomination in the county, one at Sac City, one at Pleasant Prairie and one at Schaller. At the latter place the following is the brief history of this church: It was organized in 1886 and is known as the Church of Christ. Its charter members were as follows: J. S. Hudson, still surviving at the age of eighty-three years; Abby Hudson, J. C. Hudson, Ida Hudson, J. H. Walker, Mrs. J. H. Walker, Monroe Baker, Mrs. M. Baker, S. M. Romig, Theodore Smith, Mrs. Theodore Smith and Miss Lottie Smith. The present membership is seventy-two. The present elders are I. N. Mead, Sterling Wells, W. W. Coverdale and T. V. Barnard. The deacons are H. L. W. Meirs, J. J. Mead, A. Bawker and A. G. Higgins. The frame church building was erected about 1888 at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars on lot 6, in block 5 of the town of Schaller.

The following have served as pastors: J. W. Vanderwalker, Bert Johnson, John Linder, R. O. Thompson, A. D. Finch, William Dunkleberger, E. M. Miller, W. E. Jones, C. V. Pence, John Hewitson, W. H. Hardaker and William Coverdale.

It should be stated in this connection that this denomination has no other creed than that found in the New Testament. They plead for all evangelical churches to become united in one; they favor both home and foreign missions, are great temperance advocates and do not believe it right to dance or play cards even for pastime.

The Pleasant Prairie church was organized in the autumn of 1887 by about thirty members. There had been a number of this faith in the neighborhood ever since 1873 or 1874. Among the members were M. Boynton and wife, Zack Long and wife, Lon Ingram and wife, James Staton and wife, Robert Wilson and wife, Mrs. Jane Barnhill, Mary Barnhill, Ransom Owen and wife, C. L. Ahrens and wife, Amos Roark, Martha and Sarah Peyton, Mrs. Mary Cox, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Duby and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Ball, Ami Saunders and wife, Mable Miltie and possibly a few others.



One account gives a list of the original organizers as George J. Schnirring, M. Peyton, E. L. Ahrens, L. Barnhill and F. M. Losure.

The estimated value of the church property is two thousand dollars. It was erected in the fall of 1898 at a cost of nine hundred dollars. It was built of pine. Many of the original membership united with the church at Sac City in recent years. The pastors or ministers who have served this church are H. U. Dale, Snyder, Neistrum and J. Irving Brown.

The Christian church at Sac City was organized in the summer of 1894, following a remarkable tent meeting movement in the place under Evangelist Lawrence Wright. The following constituted the first officers of the church: Elder, G. W. Burch; deacons, C. Iverson, David Nixon, Chester Cheney, W. J. Lusher and O. R. Adams; clerk, J. W. Lusher; treasurer, O. R. Adams. The organization was not fully completed until November 1, 1894. A church building was erected the same season the society was formed. The following have served as pastors in this church: G. W. Burch, the first pastor, served from 1894 to 1897; H. U. Dale, from 1897 to 1899; P. N. Nystrom, 1899 to 1900; D. F. Snyder, 1900 to 1902; M. A. Thompson, 1902 to 1903; E. N. Tucker, from 1903 to 1904; J. Irving Brown, the present pastor, has served since 1904, faithfully and well. The Christian denomination has been organized over a century now, and has more than one and a half million members. Much attention is paid to missions and the converts cost less than that of any other sect.

The church edifice in the center of the business section of the place is a good frame structure, valued at ten thousand dollars, while the new parsonage is valued at four thousand five hundred dollars. The membership of this church in February, 1914, after the recent additions to the church, amounts to about two hundred and fifty. The Sunday school enrollment is about three hundred. The present officers are: Rev. J. Irving Brown, pastor; W. A. Ball, clerk and treasurer; E. L. Ahrens, chairman church board; Ross Mayhall, secretary of church board.

#### SAC COUNTY'S YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Among the recently organized and progressive class of religious and semi-educational societies of this county is the Young Men's Christian Association, the scope of which takes in all the county of Sac. It was organized in 1908 and had made rapid advancement. Without the county committee of business men, this society could not have existed. Three years after its



founding in the county the following well-known men were such a committee: W. J. Dixon, chairman, Sac City; George B. Perkins, treasurer, Sac City; John R. Slacks, clerk, Sac City; F. S. Needham, Dr. Z. Fuller, Sac City; Ira Conger, same city; also Prof. G. W. Lee, Prof. H. P. Helms, Lake View; John T. Edson, Schaller; C. M. Moler, Lake View; H. M. Rogers, Lake View; C. G. Aldrich, Schaller; D. D. Carlton, Early; Scott Rutledge, Early. Up to the end of the third year there had been organized six local associations in the county. These were at Sac City, Schaller, Early, Pleasant Prairie and two more in the country. In these associations there were involved in 1911 such activities as the regular Bible study, physical training and educational work, and about three hundred men and boys were enrolled. It was then estimated that about three thousand different persons in the county had been involved in special work and events of a public nature. Play and exercise life, lectures, Bible study and other departments all came in for their share in the great undertaking in this county. Annual and semi-annual field meets have attracted their hundreds. At Lake View and Sac City public baths and reading rooms were established, and physical culture was made a specialty for a time. The work is rapidly being extended to remote parts of the county. At their annual meeting, held at the Methodist Episcopal church in Sac City in February, 1914, it was learned from the reports rendered that the association was in a flourishing condition.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE LODGES OF THE COUNTY.

With the advance of civilization, the increase in membership in the three great fraternal orders, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias, to say nothing of the hundred and one other societies, secret and semi-secret, with the beneficiary insurance feature connected with them, has been indeed phenomenal. These societies are not as numerous or as strong in Sac City as in some of the adjoining counties, but there are several, and of these three principal secret orders this chapter will treat briefly.

#### FREEMASONRY.

The oldest of the Masonic lodges in the county is Occidental Lodge No. 178, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Sac City. It was chartered in June, 1866, by the following charter members: D. C. Early, J. Williams, W. V. Lagourge, G. H. Wright, J. W. Tiberghien and T. M. Cory. In the early eighties it had a membership of about seventy. Today it has a membership of one hundred and nineteen, with officers as follows: W. F. Weary, worshipful master; J. W. Neal, senior warden; O. C. Pfaff, junior warden; R. L. McCord, Jr., senior deacon; F. G. Smith, junior deacon; J. H. Stalford, treasurer; Edward Drewry, secretary; P. E. Prior, tyler. Their beautiful Masonic hall was erected in the eighties, and is now estimated to be worth fifteen thousand dollars. It stands on Main street on parts of lots 5 and 6, in block 13 of the original plat of Sac City. It is up-to-date and has an Eastern Star room, kitchen and dining room. Edward Drewry has been secretary and collector for all three branches—blue lodge, chapter and commandery—for the past seven years, and this insures correct methods and promptness.

Darius Chapter No. 58, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted at Sac City February 1, 1871, with the following charter members: William McKay, W. H. Hobbs, E. R. Duffie, E. R. Chase, S. S. Armstrong, J. Orr and Oliver Birt. In 1882 the membership had reached seventy. In January, 1914, the chapter had a membership of one hundred and fifty-nine, with officers as

follows: J. Willbur Neal, high priest; W. F. Weary, king; E. B. Long, scribe; W. H. Hart, treasurer; Edward Drewry, secretary; F. L. Goodell, captain of host; F. G. Smith, royal arch captain; W. R. Temple, master of first veil; C. E. Harding, master of second veil; P. H. Peterson, master of third veil; Malcolm Currie, principal sojourner; P. E. Prior, sentinel.

Rose Croix Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, at Sac City (under dispensation in 1880), was instituted in December, 1881, with the subjoined charter members: D. C. Early, P. H. Hankins, E. R. Duffie, W. H. Hobbs, M. Childs, B. W. Trout, R. T. Shearer, M. M. Gray, H. S. Briggs and Sidney Smith. In 1880 the order had a membership of thirty knights. Its membership in January, 1914, is one hundred and eighty-four. The present officers are as follows: George B. Perkins, eminent commander; W. A. Nutter, generalissimo; O. C. Pfaff, captain general; W. F. Weary, senior warden; W. H. Hart, prelate; Edward Drewry, recorder; F. W. Loring, treasurer; P. H. Peterson, warder; J. H. Stalford, standard bearer.

The past eminent commanders have been D. Carr Early, Myron Childs, Phil Schaller, Carey Diehl, Charles L. Early, W. H. Hart, J. L. Criss, C. E. Lane, H. H. Allison, J. W. Wilson, W. L. Lee, F. W. Loring, J. H. Stalford, W. Jackson, F. E. Stouffer, J. J. Harter, M. W. Newby, F. L. Goodell, O. E. Rowe, D. D. Carlton, A. C. Shulte, C. F. Garrett, Malcolm Currie and George B. Perkins.

At Schaller, Acme Lodge No. 457 was chartered in 1883, soon after the town had got fairly under headway, having being platted and settled with enterprising men. Those who appear on the charter are as follows: R. S. Robinson, J. H. Walker, James Waddicor, J. H. Lester, C. A. Cantine, B. Mills, John Robinson, Thomas Hovendon, E. A. Bennett, J. B. Harris and A. H. McLaughlin. The first officers were C. L. Early, worshipful master; J. P. Lester, senior warden; E. A. Bennett, junior warden. The present (1914) membership of this lodge is fifty-three. Its present officers include F. H. McCray, worshipful master; J. F. Ady, senior warden; L. L. Brannen, junior warden. The past masters are C. L. Early, J. P. Lester, B. Mills, James Harris, A. B. Searle, A. R. Gordon, F. B. Rowley, A. H. McLaughlin, J. A. Gray, George J. Speaker and F. H. McCray. A hall was erected in 1898 costing five thousand four hundred dollars; it is of brick, located on lot No. 6, block No. 4, town of Schaller.

At Lake View, Laurel Lodge No. 517, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was instituted February 19, 1891, with the following charter members and officers: Charles Sifford, worshipful master; William Rowley, senior

warden; L. F. Davis, junior warden; John McClurg, treasurer; I. H. Adams, secretary; John Donahue, senior deacon; E. Cordeman, junior deacon; John Deacon, senior steward; Martin Steinman, junior steward; F. A. Denkin, tyler; J. A. Ressinger, John W. Provost, A. L. Clauser, Thomas Batie, O. W. Owen and W. McKendrick. The present membership is sixty-five. The present (January, 1914) officers are: John Erickson, worshipful master; F. Hamm, senior warden; O. S. Holiday, junior warden; N. Westerman, treasurer; Fred Wells, secretary; J. T. Sigman, senior deacon; C. P. Armstrong, junior deacon; A. Lee, senior steward; B. Remmert, junior steward; L. A. Cleveland, tyler. The past masters of this lodge are Charles Sifford, E. F. Mahe, A. Armstrong, F. H. Clark, B. Braughton, William Dean, E. E. Speaker, H. Lindsey and A. Lillie.

At Early, St. Elmo Lodge No. 462 was organized many years ago and now enjoys a membership of seventy-four. The present elective officers are: J. C. Hartsell, worshipful master; L. W. McCreery, senior warden; C. F. Jackson, junior warden; D. D. Carlton, treasurer; W. W. Little, secretary. The past worshipful masters have been D. D. Carlton, T. A. Barnett, C. H. Jump, Al. Bryan, E. C. Fuller, G. G. Parrett, — Denny, C. H. Allen, R. J. Jackson and J. N. Hartsell. This lodge owns its own brick building.

Wheeler Lodge No. 398, at Odebolt, was organized October 9, 1879, with charter members as follows: John M. Zane, E. P. Messer, H. T. Martin, F. A. Cobb, W. W. Field, F. S. Douglass, E. Colvin, J. W. Fairbanks, W. A. Helsell and G. C. Bolt. The membership in January, 1914, was one hundred and one. The elective officers when first instituted were as follows: John M. Zane, worshipful master; E. P. Messer, senior warden; H. T. Martin, junior warden; F. S. Douglass, treasurer; F. A. Cobb, secretary; W. A. Helsell, senior deacon; E. Colvin, junior deacon; J. W. Fairbanks, tyler. The order leases their hall at present. The elective officers at present (1914) are as follows: O. E. Huglin, worshipful master; M. H. Paul, senior warden; W. M. Sayre, junior warden; Ellis Kluckholm, senior deacon; J. S. Fisher, junior deacon; W. W. Reynolds, treasurer; J. R. Mattes, secretary; H. W. Stratton, tyler.

At Wall Lake, Wall Lake Lodge No. 390, was allowed to work under the dispensation of June 4, 1878, and a charter was granted them June 4, 1879. Charter members were C. N. Levy, H. B. Allen, D. M. Bingman, L. J. Sifford, F. W. Weed, A. D. Herrig, B. E. Allen, C. M. Smith, W. D. Forbes and William Throssell. In 1882 the lodge had a membership of thir-

ty-two. It now has a membership of seventy-eight, with officers as follows: C. W. Davis, worshipful master; J. A. Swanson, treasurer, since 1907; J. C. Ockerstrom, secretary; C. W. Shaw, senior deacon; F. G. Wicker, junior deacon. A hall is leased by the order at Wall Lake. The past worshipful masters include J. C. Ockerstrom, F. E. Johnston and L. T. Quirk.

Jeptha Lodge No. 201, at Auburn, was instituted June 5, 1867, by Deputy Grand Master D. Carr Early, of Sac City. The following were the first officers and members: G. W. Wright, worshipful master; William Chapin, senior warden; William Impson, junior warden; Joseph Williams, secretary; S. B. York, treasurer; David Hain, senior deacon; R. M. Williams, junior deacon; John W. Wilson, tyler; Thomas Basler, steward.

The lodge now enjoys a membership of thirty-seven. The 1914 officers are: F. A. Meyer, worshipful master; G. M. Parker, senior warden, F. B. Layman, junior warden; A. Basler, treasurer; W. I. Toop, secretary. The past masters are G. W. Wright, William Chapman, Edwin Miller, William Impson, George Hicks, I. W. Deemer, C. D. Wilcox, A. Basler, W. S. Williams, A. M. Morrison, J. F. Rose, W. I. Toop.

In 1901 the lodge purchased the former school house, a two-story frame building, and moved it to the present location and there remodeled it at a cost of eleven hundred dollars. This lodge, it should be understood, was originally formed at old Grant City and moved to Auburn in April, 1890.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

This order is next in age to the Masonic bodies in the world and has many benefits connected therewith. Go where one may in all the civilized portions of the globe, and there can be found a brother of the "Three Link Order." Its growth has been a wonder to the masses. Founded on the precepts of the Bible, it has been the means of uplifting many a man and placing him in a position to command respect and admiration among his fellow men. When the member of this order is ill he is cared for and in death his eyes are tenderly closed from the light of the earth and his remains are buried in decency and order, while his family is cared for after his departure.

Records show that the first lodge of this order, Sac City Lodge No. 323, was instituted in Sac county at Sac City, October 21, 1875, with a charter membership of about twenty. By January 1, 1914, it had grown to a membership of one hundred and ninety-three. Its elective officers at the date last given were as follows: Adolph Gustaveson, noble grand; W. W. Stokes,

vice grand; C. E. Harding, secretary; Harry Wood, financial secretary; B. A. Young, treasurer.

A spacious, well-planned brick hall, on the corner of Sixth and Main streets, was built by the order in 1911 at an expense of eight thousand dollars. Stock was subscribed by the members of the fraternity. All of the degrees of the order are here represented and excellent work has been done in the past and is still being done. Many of the best men in Sac City are connected with this lodge, and the Rebekah degree is made up of many of the brightest ladies of the place. A strong society of the encampment of this fraternity and the only one in the county is in existence at Sac City at this date.

At Schaller, William Garrett Lodge No. 609 was instituted by the Odd Fellows April 3, 1895, with the following charter members: John Henry, George Schaller, W. J. Howard, W. R. Brooks, L. J. French, J. F. Burkhead, C. Mayer, W. H. Reese and J. W. Kanouse. This lodge now has a membership of seventy-eight and is officered as follows: John Woodke, noble grand; A. A. Resegee, vice grand; Charles E. Guernsey, recording secretary; Edward Stoelting, financial secretary; and C. Mayer, treasurer. This lodge meets in its hall over the opera house on Main street. The following have served as past noble grands: C. Mayer, Edward Stoelting, F. M. McLaughlin, J. W. Kanouse, R. F. Barnes, H. H. Schaefer, J. B. Harris, J. E. Rogers, A. J. Harris, C. F. Ellis, C. H. Collins, G. A. Rogers, R. W. King, W. W. Allen, W. H. McKinney, Jens Jensen, J. D. Robinson, C. S. Wheeler, Jacob Weegar, H. J. Strahm and Charles E. Guernsey. The "three links" are very popular in and about Schaller and are made up of the best men in the vicinity.

Boyer Lodge No. 475, at Early, was organized in 1884. In May, 1890, the lodge room was burned and all records of the early transactions of the order were destroyed, hence we are unable to give the charter members and first officers. It now has a membership of ninety-nine. The present (January, 1914) elective officers are as follows: J. R. Leighton, noble grand; J. W. Stocks, vice grand; W. H. Allen, recording secretary as well as financial secretary; J. W. Hartsell, treasurer. The Odd Fellows hall at Early was erected in 1891, a veneer-brick structure, costing one thousand five hundred dollars. The order owns the upper portion of this block, which stands on Main and Second streets. With the passing years the list of past grands may be read with much interest and are here subjoined: W. W. Shaw, W. P. Hirons, Ned Madson, E. E. Cater, J. F. DeGarmo, I. W. Scothorn, William Luff, J. R. Kenney, A. H. Borsed, G. W. Patee, L. C. Holdridge, J. L. Dunham, John Scothorn, J. Grace, John Simpson, B. F. Hazen, J. C. Blair,

F. W. Flanagan, G. W. Little, W. T. Scott, George Huston, Robert Scothorn, G. S. Wilson, W. F. Hay, Bert Kind, James Kenney, James Newell, J. W. Hartsell, C. R. Kenney and C. J. Allen.

Odd Fellows Lodge No. 360, at Wall Lake, was organized in 1888, with at least the following members: W. M. Hamilton, Frank A. Rouse, J. F. Strohl, John A. Nelson, Frank Hawley and George W. McIntosh. The present membership of the lodge is thirty-seven. The elective officers are at this date as follows: C. W. Davis, noble grand; H. McIverson, vice grand; Chris Erickson, secretary; Samuel Robinson, treasurer. While not a large lodge in numbers, it is a lodge devoted to the best interests of Odd Fellowship in the section of country in which it is located.

Lytton Lodge No. 336, at Lytton, was organized January 24, 1901, with the following charter members and officers: C. F. Brobeil, Gust Hohn, S. J. Griffith, C. C. Webb, V. D. Heston, Jacob Stevens. The officers first elected were as follows: V. D. Heston, noble grand; Gust Hohn, vice grand; C. F. Brobeil, secretary; C. C. Webb, treasurer. The present membership is ninety-five. The present elective officers are: G. E. Lamner, noble grand; Ray Bechler, vice grand; C. F. Brobeil, secretary; W. G. Brobeil, treasurer. A frame hall was built by the order in 1907 at a cost of three thousand dollars, and is counted one of the finest halls in Sac county.

Auburn Lodge No. 540 was organized December 12, 1891, by Thomas Thurston, William F. Harvey, Charles F. Wagner, William C. Wagner, vice grand, Conrad Buehie, secretary, and W. F. Harvey, treasurer. The present membership is fifty-one. The present officers are C. H. Wilkey, noble grand; George W. Smith, vice grand; E. W. Bean, secretary; J. B. Williamson, treasurer. The past noble grands of this lodge have been O. C. Crandall, O. M. Brooks, Ed. Thompson, J. B. Williams, J. B. Standfield, J. W. Martin, L. T. Wiseman, S. Anderson, J. E. Thompson, A. C. Whittiker, H. Garnatz, A. Staton, J. Rettig, Joseph Wiseman, George Hungate, A. W. Walton, J. E. Kepleman, O. M. Ripley, E. W. Bean and J. H. Wiseman.

The dispensation for Odd Fellows Lodge No. 447, at Odebolt, was granted by Grand Master Whipple February 9, 1882. The first officers installed were W. W. Stanfield, noble grand; J. W. Conklin, vice grand; L. D. Beardsley, treasurer; John R. Mattes, secretary; A. B. Cooley, warden; R. D. Stafford, conductor; George Brownell, guardian; R. W. Wheelock, right supporter noble grand; C. W. Stanfield, right supporter vice grand. The lodge is not a very strong one, but those who belong are true and faithful to the obligations of the iraternity. The officers elected for 1914 are as fol-



lows: John Williams, noble grand; Ed. Martin, vice grand; John A. Caine, secretary; John R. Mattes, treasurer; E. E. Stratton, financial secretary; Glenn Smith, warden; P. O. Olson, conductor; Hans Olson, inside guard; William Caine, outside guard; M. B. Wolf, John W. Yonnie and Erick Ericksson, trustees.

Lake View Lodge No. 302, at Lake View, was organized October 18, 1888, by F. A. Lurk. The charter members and first elective officers were: A. C. Clouse, W. N. McKendrick, V. R. Anson, J. P. Therkelson, C. K. Shumbaugh and William Elwanger. Officers: A. L. Clouse, noble grand; W. N. McKendrick, vice grand; J. P. Therkelson, secretary; V. R. Anson, treasurer. The present (February, 1914) officers are as follows: A. C. Johnson, noble grand; William Belt, vice grand; V. R. Anson, secretary; C. K. Shumbaugh, treasurer. The past noble grands are A. L. Clouse, W. N. McKendrick, V. R. Anson, C. K. Shumbaugh, J. P. Therkelson, F. S. Frisbie, M. L. Kaw, H. C. Miller, Paul Miller, A. C. Johnson, O. P. Haskins, J. P. Wells, D. C. Meek, H. Chambers and C. D. Lung. A frame building was erected in 1890 at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars, and the upper story is used for the order. The lower story was built for opera house purposes and public hall uses. It was erected by the Democratic Hall Association. In 1910 the Odd Fellows bought the hall property, now having the whole structure, which is valued at three thousand dollars. The lodge is free of all debt and has five hundred dollars in the treasury.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

There have been several lodges of this fraternity in Sac county, but at present it is confined to only two points. Formerly there was a lodge at Odebolt and one at Auburn, but today the lodges at Sac City and Early are the only ones holding a charter.

At Sac City, Saxon Lodge No. 106 was organized October 24, 1883, by the Carroll Lodge. The following were charter members and officers: C. H. Reynolds, past chancellor; W. H. Hanchett, chancellor commander; J. E. Robbins, vice chancellor; A. D. Peck, prelate; F. B. Knight, keeper of records and seals; J. L. Watson, master of finance; J. M. Highland, master of exchequer; G. M. Parker, master at arms; C. P. Chapman, outer guard; W. Highland, inner guard; J. Shull, J. H. James, J. Y. Campfield, E. H. Parnell, J. Marks, W. F. Moyer, J. H. Fox, A. W. Hobbs, F. H. Knights, J. M. Broat, H. J. Baxter, James N. Miller, Albert Keyser, T. B. Mansfield, Phil Schaller,

H. L. Wilson, J. T. Bushnell. The present membership of this lodge is fifty-five. The elective officers in March, 1914, were as follows: George I. Cory, past chancellor; Miles Hamilton, chancellor commander; Ed. Young, vice chancellor; C. L. Stocker, prelate; M. Currie, master of work; John H. Fox, master of exchequer; N. O. Gishwiller, master of finance; H. L. Arney, master at arms; S. L. Hawley, inner guard; George I. Cory, outer guard; trustees, M. Currie, N. O. Gishwiller, George I. Cory. The order had various lodge rooms until the building of the Allen block on East Main street, since which time it has had a hall home on the second floor of that building. At one time there was a Uniform Rank at Sac City, but several years ago it went down for lack of attention and interest. George M. Parker was the captain of the division during its existence here.

The report of Early Lodge No. 165 is not at hand, but it is understood that, while it is not a large one, yet it is doing good work.

## CHAPTER XV.

### RAILROADS AND TRANSPORTATION.

There is no internal improvement that has done so much to develop this country as its railroads. The printing press, the railroad, the telegraph and the telephone combined move the world today. Up to about 1880, in this section of the West, the country was first expected to be fairly well developed before they had any chance to obtain railway service. The agricultural and mineral resources had first to be so far advanced and developed that there was quick returns to capital before such capital could be induced to construct a steam and iron highway through such section. Times have materially changed. Now the railroad goes on ahead and pioneers the way over trackless prairies, over forest and glen and swampy places, having in view the farmer who will ere long be enticed into coming and effecting permanent settlement, on account of the easy access to a railroad, which gives him, at once, a direct and speedy line of transportation.

Sac county was only partly settled until the railroads sought out this goodly land of fertility and surveyed her lines throughout her borders. This county was never bonded or heavily burdened by railroad taxes, as was the case in some of the more eastern counties in Iowa.

Again who built the railroads, as they first appeared on the map of our fair state? While not paying for the construction of these various roads, yet, strange to relate, the farmers built the roads; their teams made the grades, the "cuts and the fills;" their axes hewed the ties; their sons laid the rails and then manned the trains and officered the corporations. This is true today, as has but recently been noted by the vice-president of the great Illinois Central system, in a speech made at Storm Lake only last year: "Fifty per cent. of the employes of the railroads come from the farm. The sons of lawyers do not make good brakemen; neither does the son of a merchant seek employment as a fireman. Those who learn the mechanical trades are used to manual labor. The men who work on the track, also work on the farm a part of the time. These are the ones from whom the officials are made. There cannot rightfully be antagonism between the two vocations, and there is absolutely no cause for it where it exists. Only the demagogue will tell

you that 'Wall Street owns the railroads.' And that hence they are a legitimate prey for the common people.

"Of the ten thousand stockholders of the Illinois Central railroad eight thousand own one hundred shares or less. The maximum for one hundred shares, an ordinary Iowa farm is worth as much money. The great majority of shares are held in comparatively small amounts. From one hundred shares of Illinois Central stock the owner—widow, orphan or perhaps some superannuated person—gets seven hundred dollars per year. If the same money had been invested in Iowa land at the time this railroad was built it would now be worth many times as much, and invested in any of the industries would have brought far greater returns. Those who invest in railroad stocks are usually those who cannot manipulate their money in merchandising or in other ways requiring personal ability or superintendence."

With the north and south and east and west lines of railroad through Sac county, the farmer and merchant have been greatly benefited. All classes have been brought in touch with the great busy outside world.

As early as April, 1859, there was talk of building a railroad through Sac county. The question as to whether the people of this county should vote away twenty-five thousand dollars worth of its swamp land that had been given the county by the state, to aid some company in constructing a railroad or not. Thirty-three votes were cast on the proposition, but all were cast against such measure. It is supposed the Wabash system was backing the enterprise, but the people, as bad as they needed a railroad, did not believe in paying for building it and let others own and control the stock in same.

The county developed as best it could, drawing her supplies from Des Moines, Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge and Sioux City for all the years intervening between 1855 and 1879, during which latter year the first rail was laid in the county—that making the track of the great Chicago Northwestern system and being the branch from the "Y" at Sac Junction to Sac City, which marked the beginning of the railroad era for this county. Very soon this railroad extended its lines north and west, giving Sac county many miles of road, the towns of Wall Lake, Auburn, Odebolt, Lake View being on one line, and Sac City, Early and Schaller on the line from Carroll to Sioux City via Correctionville.

The next move toward railroad building in Sac county was in 1899, when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Company extended a branch of their road from Rockwell City, Calhoun county, to Sac City, completing the

same to Storm Lake, thereby adding much improvement in shipping facilities and passenger accommodations throughout this county.

The present mileage of the various railroads within this county, as shown by county records, is as follows: The Chicago & Northwestern lines, sixty-nine and one-half miles; the Illinois Central has nineteen miles; the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system has nineteen and fifteen one-hundredths miles. This gives a total of mileage in Sac county of one hundred and seven and sixty-five one-hundredths miles.

There are twelve townships in this county having a railroad mileage and four without a mile of steam road within their limits.

The *Sac Sun* has this to say in its issue of August, 1879, concerning the building of the railroad in this county: "Twenty-three years after it was laid out as a town Sac City has a railroad. The history of its efforts in this direction constitute a long chapter of hard work and bright schemes that failed, encouragements and discouragements, that perhaps have seldom been equalled in the history of any Iowa town.

"We believe that the Cedar Rapids & Missouri River Railroad (now the Northwestern system) was the first road to be surveyed through this county. It did not pass through Sac City, but the people had hopes of being able to bring it here. It was afterwards diverted south to Carroll county, to make its terminus at Council Bluffs, to connect with the Union Pacific system—which was then only a dream of the future.

"Next came the Iowa Falls & Sioux City line (now Illinois Central), which was surveyed through our county, some distance to the north of Sac City, but was finally changed to run through Buena Vista county.

"The next important project, and one of which we all felt sure, was the Iowa Pacific, which was surveyed through Sac City and considerable work done on it in 1873-74, but the general prostration of business and almost total cessation of railroad building killed this enterprise, leaving us only a grade which in all probability will never be used, although a road is now being built from Minneapolis to Fort Dodge, which is intended to extend on to Omaha. It may or may not come this way.

"In the spring of 1876 an effort was made to induce the Iowa Land Company to build a road, starting from Jefferson, coming up through Lake City and on to Ida county. But the present route of the Maple Valley road had already been selected, and it seemed as if the fates were against us in Sac county. The building of this road was a serious blow to Sac City and at one time threatened to swamp us. But, with an energy born of despair, its people

started with more earnestness to secure a railroad. The Illinois Central was appealed to, but it would not consider or even condescend to reply to communications. About August, 1877, Judge Duffie wrote E. P. Hull, general manager of the Maple River Railroad Company, telling him that Sac City wanted a railroad and asked him if he could do anything to help us build one to Wall Lake. The reply led to the formation of the Sac City & Wall Lake Railroad Company in September, 1877, to build a road between those two points. Judge Duffie was elected president and a five per cent. tax was voted in aid of the road in Jackson township as well as in Cedar township, but defeated in Coon Valley and Wall Lake townships.

"A preliminary survey was made in the fall of the year last mentioned, and the cost of grading ascertained. In May, 1878, the company proposed to the Iowa Land Company to grade and bridge the road and provide right of way and depot grounds and give it to them if they would complete it and cause it to be operated. The proposition was taken under advisement by the company, but for a while no answer could be received.

"Our people again began to think they were to be disappointed and so turned their attention to a road to the east, connecting with the old Des Moines & Fort Dodge line at Gowrie. A company was formed and preparations made to go on with the work. A survey was made, but before it was finished the Iowa Land Company accepted the proposition made to them. They doubtless realized that Sac City was determined to have a road and thought it best to have one of theirs here, rather than a competing road.

"Last Friday [August, 1879] the rails were laid to Main street and the long-looked for, hoped-for, worked-for railroad became a glorious fact. Among those whose names should never be forgotten in securing this road to Sac City are: Judge Early, Judge Criss, Judge Duffie, Asa Platt, W. H. Hobbs, N. W. Condron. While it has cost our people considerable, yet the road, we think, will amply repay all for what they have spent in securing it."

In October, 1887, Jackson township voted a five per cent. aid towards building a railroad projected from Rockwell to Sac City, known as the Rockwell, Sac City & Dakota.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### COUNTY AND STATE OFFICERS, ELECTIONS, ETC.

The following is an account of the important elections of Sac county, together with a list of the various county officers and the vote on governors and Presidents, as far as possible to obtain them from any record now obtainable.

AUGUST 4, 1856.

For secretary of state, Elijah Sells had a majority of 3. Congressman, Timothy Davis had a majority of 3. Clerk of the district court, Henry A. Evans elected. School fund commissioner, William Todd elected. Prosecuting attorney, D. N. Kinnie elected. Drainage commissioner, Joseph W. Williams elected. Coroner of Sac county, Joseph H. Austin elected.

NOVEMBER 4, 1856.

Presidential electors—(Democratic ticket) James Buchanan, 35 votes; (Republican ticket) John C. Fremont, 25 votes.

AUGUST, 1857.

County Judge, S. W. Wagoner, 21 votes; Eugene Criss, 27 votes; A. J. Cain, 27 votes (tied and declared finally in favor of A. J. Cain). Treasurer and recorder (combined office), D. C. Early, 45 votes; Davis Guy, 25 votes. Sheriff, Andrew J. Taylor, 34 votes; William Impson, 36 votes; Thomas Richey, 1 vote. Prosecuting attorney, Leland H. Stocker, 36 votes; William Kromer, 28 votes; Francis Ayers, 1 vote. Coroner, Joseph H. Austin, 22 votes; Washington W. Wren, 50 votes. Surveyor, William H. Fagely, 39 votes; Joseph W. Williams, 29 votes.

OCTOBER ELECTION, 1857.

For governor, Benj. M. Samuels (Democratic), 43; Ralph P. Lowe (Republican), 8 votes.



APRIL 5, 1858.

At the house of Eugene Criss in Jackson township, Eugene Criss was elected a justice of the peace for Jackson township for two years; William Todd was elected township clerk at the same time and place.

APRIL 5, 1858.

Fifty-six votes were cast in Jackson township for justice of the peace, E. Criss being duly declared elected. For prosecuting attorney, William Kromer received 29 votes and Enoch Ross, 27. For drainage commissioner, William J. Wagoner received the full vote, 53 votes. For superintendent of schools, Daniel T. Rising received 61 votes.

OCTOBER, 1858.

Secretary of State, Elijah Sells, 31 votes; Samuel Douglas, 37 votes. Congressman, William C. Lefingwell, 37 votes; William Vanderver, 31 votes. Clerk of the district court, William Hobbs received the full vote of 58 and was declared elected.

OCTOBER, 1859.

For county judge, Eugene Criss, 43 votes; W. J. Wagoner, 19 votes; B. C. Browning, 1 vote. Treasurer and recorder (combined), D. C. Early the full vote of the county, 62, and declared elected. Sheriff, Miles Manning, 31 votes; William Impson, 17 votes; James Filberheim, 10 votes; Roswell Perry, 4 votes. Drainage commissioner, S. L. Watt, 38 votes; J. H. Austin, 23 votes. County school superintendent, G. F. Browning, 34 votes; H. C. Hulbert, 22 votes. Coroner, A. J. Leach elected. Surveyor, Joseph Williams elected. Governor, A. C. Dodge (Democrat), 37 votes; S. J. Kirkwood (Republican), 28 votes. State representative (sixth district, composed of Dickinson, Sac, Buena Vista, Kossuth, Emmet, Clay and Palo Alto), John E. Blackford, 174 votes; F. M. Cory, 136 votes; J. L. Rease, 1 vote.

NOVEMBER, 1860.

For presidential electors, Stephen A. Douglas electors (Democrat), 40 votes; Abraham Lincoln (Republican), 25 votes. Congressman, Benjamin M. Samuels (Democrat), 40 votes; William Vanderver (Republican), 25

votes. Clerk of the district court, J. G. Browning, 26 votes; William H. Hobbs, 25 votes.

OCTOBER, 1861.

For governor, William H. Merrett (Democrat), 43 votes; Samuel J. Kirkwood (Republican), 5 votes. Congressman for the second district, L. Byington the full vote. State representative, George S. Walton received the total vote. County judge, John Alexander, 47 votes; E. Criss, 1 vote. Treasurer and recorder (combined), D. C. Early, 47 votes. Sheriff, David Basler, 19 votes; Robert Quail, 17 votes; William Impson, 11 votes. County surveyor, Joseph Williams, 29 votes; Isaac A. Cory, 18 votes. School superintendent, William Todd, 26 votes; William Kromer, 21 votes. Drainage commissioner, S. L. Watt, 24 votes; J. H. Austin, 16 votes; F. M. Ayers, 7 votes. Coroner, Elias Tiberghien, 30 votes; W. W. Wren, 9 votes; Charles Oldfield, 6 votes.

OCTOBER, 1862.

For congressman, A. W. Hubbard (Republican), 23 votes; John F. Duncombe (Democrat), 7 votes.

OCTOBER 4, 1863.

(Sac township was thrown out on account of the returns not being properly signed by the election officers.) For Governor, William M. Stone (Republican), 21 votes; James M. Tuttle (Democrat), 19 votes. State representative, Addison Oliver (Republican), 25 votes; S. E. Dow (Democrat), 14 votes, aside from the soldier vote which came in later and showed that the Republican candidate received the majority of those army votes. Treasurer and recorder (combined), N. W. Condron elected. County judge, John Alexander, elected. Sheriff, David Barber elected. School superintendent, William Kromer elected. Surveyor, Joseph Williams, elected. Drainage commissioner, Eugene Criss elected.

NOVEMBER, 1864.

Presidential electors, Abraham Lincoln (Republican), 44 votes; George B. McClellan (Democrat), 22. For congressman, A. Hubbard (Republican), 44; L. Chapman (Democrat), 22. For clerk of the courts, 63 votes, includ-

ing the soldier vote in the army, all cast for William H. Hobbs. For recorder, 63 votes (all) for N. W. Condron.

## OCTOBER, 1867.

For governor, Samuel Merrill (Republican), —; Charles Mason (Democrat), 34. State representative, Eugene Criss (Republican), 101; A. B. McCall (Democrat), 22. County treasurer, R. Ellis, 83; opponent, 43. For county judge, D. Carr Early (Republican) elected. For sheriff, J. S. Tiberghien elected. County surveyor, Charles Wilson, 77; Oren Porter, 37. County superintendent of schools, William P. Drewry, 114 votes; Ed. Whitney, 33 votes. For drainage commissioner, E. Criss elected. Coroner, Dr. R. G. Platt elected.

## NOVEMBER 9, 1868.

Presidential electors (Republican), 132 for the Grant and Colfax electors, and for the Democratic electors for Seymour and Blair, 45. For congressman (sixth district), Charles Pomeroy (Republican), 132; Charles A. L. Roszell (Democratic), 45. For clerk of the courts, William H. Hobbs elected. For county recorder, N. W. Condron elected.

## OCTOBER, 1869.

For governor, Samuel Merrill (Republican), 185; George Gellespie, 51. For county auditor (first to hold this office), William H. Hobbs elected. County treasurer, Ed R. Duffie, 162; William Allen, 61. For sheriff, William Impson, 141; A. S. Curtis, 28; John Austin, 52. For county surveyor, C. Wilson elected. For county superintendent of schools, R. Ellis elected. For coroner, Dr. R. G. Platt.

## OCTOBER, 1870.

For congressman (sixth district), Jackson Orr elected. For clerk of the district courts, L. Davis elected. For recorder, William Chapman elected over opponent, R. Ellis, with a vote of 112.

## OCTOBER, 1871.

For governor, Cyrus C. Carpenter (Republican), 137 votes; J. C. Knapp, 89 votes. For county auditor, William Chapin elected. For county treas-

urer, W. H. Hobbs elected. For sheriff, Charles W. Allen elected. For county surveyor, Robert Quail elected. For superintendent of schools, R. Ellis elected. For coroner, D. M. Lamoreaux elected.

NOVEMBER, 1872.

Presidential electors, U. S. Grant (Republican), 305; Horace Greeley (Democrat), 48 votes. For county recorder, Levi Davis elected. For clerk of the courts, John Alexander elected.

OCTOBER, 1873.

For governor, C. C. Carpenter (Republican), 332; J. G. Vale (Democrat), 93. For county treasurer, William H. Hobbs, 421; A. H. Burbeck, 1. For auditor, William Chapin, 425; Ed Whitney, 1. For sheriff, M. L. Pratt, 176; J. W. Nutter, 136; J. P. Kromer, 88; Charles Wilson, 21. For school superintendent, John Dobson, 424. For supervisor, William Hawkes, 422; to fill vacancy for same, J. H. Woodell, 220; E. Criss, 196. Surveyor, R. D. Trimble, 281; Robert Quail, 140. Coroner, Dr. William Warren, 426.

OCTOBER, 1874.

County recorder, N. B. Flack elected. For clerk of the courts, John F. Moody elected. For Coroner, S. W. Duncan elected.

1875.

County auditor, William Chapin elected. Treasurer, William Hobbs elected. Sheriff, Criss Waddell elected. Superintendent of schools, John Dobson elected. Coroner, Dr. A. H. Brenton elected. Surveyor, William S. Williams.

NOVEMBER 7, 1876.

For county recorder, N. B. Flack elected. For clerk of the district court, J. F. Moody elected.

OCTOBER 9, 1877.

County auditor, A. D. Peck elected. County treasurer, Phil Schaller elected. Sheriff, C. Waddell elected. Coroner, Dr. A. T. Brenton elected.

County surveyor, C. Pettis elected. School superintendent, James Darling elected. Coroner, Dr. A. T. Brenton elected.

OCTOBER, 1878.

Recorder, N. B. Flack elected. Clerk of the courts, C. E. Lane elected.

OCTOBER, 1879.

For governor, John H. Gear (Republican), 638; H. H. Trimble (Democrat), 245. County auditor, A. D. Peck, 1,010 majority. Treasurer, Phil Schaller, 1,016 majority over Thomas Alexander. Sheriff, C. Waddell, 129 majority. School superintendent, James Darling, a majority of 458. Coroner, Dr. Z. Fuller had the full vote. County supervisor, William Hawkes, 212 majority. Surveyor, Charles Pettis, a majority of 349.

1880.

Presidential electors, Garfield and Arthur (Republican), 1,346; Hancock and English, 425; Weaver and Chambers, 92; Anti-Masonic, 30. Clerk of courts, C. E. Lane, 1,148 majority. Recorder, N. B. Flack, 129 majority. County supervisor, Henry Reinhart, 660 majority. Coroner, C. M. Hopkins, 1,078 majority.

OCTOBER, 1881.

Governor, B. R. Sherman, 858 majority over L. G. Kinnie, Democrat. County treasurer, Phil Schaller over all. Sheriff, H. L. Wilson, 42 majority over C. Waddell. James Darling, school superintendent, defeated by 60 majority by H. T. Martin. C. M. Hopkins elected coroner. Charles Pettis elected by 858 majority for surveyor over J. H. Hoebing. For purchasing a poor farm, 135; against it, 1,016.

NOVEMBER, 1882.

Clerk of the courts, C. E. Lane elected by 851 majority over George A. Smith. W. F. Moyer elected by 763 majority for school superintendent. For coroner, Daniel Leshner, 479 over John Hoebing.

1883.

Governor, B. R. Sherman (Republican), 1,358; L. G. Kinnie, 606; James B. Weaver, 56. Auditor, A. D. Peck, 958 majority over George A. Smith. For treasurer, Phil Schaller, Republican, 1,321 majority over W. W. Shaw. H. L. Wilson, 748 majority over C. Waddell, for sheriff. H. T. Martin, majority of 367 over J. W. Savage for school superintendent. Henry Reinhart, 835 majority over D. R. Herrold for supervisor. C. Brown, 1,105 majority over A. A. Huson for coroner. West Dodd, 762 majority over Frank Ross for surveyor.

1884.

Blaine and Logan (Republican) for President and Vice-President, over Cleveland and Hendricks (Democrat), 673 majority. Charles E. Lane, 747 majority over V. E. Hankins for county clerk. W. F. Moyer, 708 majority over L. J. Sifford for recorder. Pierce Coy, 708 majority over I. S. Bailey for supervisor.

NOVEMBER, 1885.

For governor, William Larrabee, 545 majority over Charles E. Whiting. A. D. Peck elected by 361 majority for auditor. Thomas J. Marks elected treasurer by 586 majority. Thomas Batie elected sheriff by 263 majority. H. H. Fitch elected supervisor by 510 majority.

NOVEMBER, 1886.

County clerk, C. E. Lane by 621 over Ed. Colvin. W. F. Moyer, 746 majority over his opponent. James Tait elected county attorney by 1,441 majority. C. W. Marcy, 518 majority over W. W. Shaw, for county supervisor.

NOVEMBER, 1887.

Governor, William Larrabee (Republican) over T. J. Anderson, 555 majority. County auditor, C. C. Cleveland, 401 majority over E. F. Baxter. T. J. Marks, for treasurer, over Otto Behrend, 603 majority. Thomas Batie, 200 majority for sheriff over J. L. Comstock. Clarence Messer, 587 majority over Abbey Bailey for school superintendent. C. H. Babcock, for supervisor, 632 majority over C. L. Martin. C. Brown, 583 majority over R. M.

Nicholson for coroner. West Dodd, 539 majority over Phil Huston for surveyor. For purchase of poor farm, 308; against it, 1,473.

NOVEMBER, 1888.

Presidential ticket, Benjamin Harrison (Republican), 729 majority over Grover Cleveland, the vote standing 1,831 and 1,002 respectively. County clerk, C. L. Early, 763 majority over McKendrick. W. F. Moyer over Schmitz for recorder, 827 majority. County supervisor, H. H. Fitch, 825 majority.

NOVEMBER, 1889.

For governor, J. G. Hutchinson, 315 majority over Horace Boies, Democrat. County treasurer, J. C. Bodine (Democrat) was elected over Marks by 296 majority. Sheriff Allen was elected over his opponent by 135 majority. C. Messer, for county superintendent, defeated by Edw. Drewry (Democrat) by 10 majority. County supervisor F. Hahne (Democrat), 195 majority over C. M. Marcey.

NOVEMBER, 1890.

County Clerk Charles L. Early elected by a majority of 449. W. F. Moyer elected recorder by a majority of 302. County attorney A. B. Mason over Hunter by a majority of 23. Supervisor C. H. Babcock over his opponent by 330 majority.

NOVEMBER, 1891.

Governor, Hiram Wheeler, 458 majority over Democratic nominee, Horace Boies. County treasurer, R. G. Wilson by 310 majority. H. B. Allen, 623 majority over his opponent for the office of sheriff. C. E. Stalcoop, for county school superintendent, 12 majority. For surveyor, West Dodd polled the total vote, as did also C. Brown for the office of coroner.

1892.

Presidential candidates, Benjamin Harrison, 1,888; Grover Cleveland, 1,264; James B. Weaver, 83. Auditor, J. W. Wilson, 614 majority. W. J. Dixon, majority for clerk of the courts, 728. For recorder, A. J. Clouser, 496



majority. James H. Tait, for county attorney, 593 majority. First district county supervisor, M. E. Wright, 188 majority.

## NOVEMBER, 1893.

For governor, Frank D. Jackson (Republican), plurality over Horace Boies and Mr. Joseph of 661 votes. For county treasurer, R. G. Wilson, 830 plurality. Sheriff, Al De Garmo, plurality 861. School superintendent, C. E. Stalcoop, plurality of 808. Surveyor, A. T. Martin, plurality of 809. Coroner, Dr. C. M. Hopkins, plurality of 766. County supervisor, Chris Roth, plurality of 228.

## NOVEMBER, 1894.

County clerk, W. J. Dixon, 1,126 majority over E. M. Whalen. J. W. Wilson, 1,660 majority over P. M. Lewis for auditor. A. L. Clouser, 1,073 over E. Hobbs for recorder. James H. Tait received the total vote for county attorney. James H. Neal, 183 majority over Reuben Lewis for supervisor.

## NOVEMBER, 1895.

For Governor, F. M. Drake, 962 majority on the Republican ticket over opponents, W. I. Babb, S. B. Crane and Francis Bacon. County treasurer, D. E. Spafford, 1826; Charles Goodenow, 955. Sheriff, A. D. Garmo, 724 majority over C. S. Larimer. J. W. Jackson, 662 majority over Miss Irene Smedly for school superintendent. For supervisor, M. E. Wright, 178 majority over J. W. Huston. For coroner, C. M. Hopkins the total vote of county, 2,089. A. T. Martin for surveyor, total vote.

## NOVEMBER, 1896.

Presidential vote, William McKinley (Republican), 2,513; William Jennings Bryan, 1,346; General Palmer, 17; Levering, 36; Bently, 5; Matchett, 1. County attorney, Miles W. Newby, 1,238 majority over C. R. Metcalf. A. H. Montgomery, 1,045 majority over E. L. James for auditor. R. G. Wilson, 787 majority over Charles F. Drewry for county clerk. George W. Cochrane, 1,044 majority over Theodore Yeager for recorder. August Lundell, 456 majority over Jacob Miller for supervisor.

## NOVEMBER, 1898.

Auditor, A. H. Montgomery, 1,011 majority over John H. Ketterer. County clerk, W. C. Waddell, 875 majority over J. S. Birt. G. W. Cochrane, 675 majority over George A. Heagy for recorder. Miles W. Newby, 618 majority over P. P. White for county attorney. L. C. Holdridge, 235 majority over J. H. Denman for supervisor.

## NOVEMBER, 1899.

For governor, Leslie M. Shaw (Republican), 996 majority over Fred White (Democrat), 1,155, and M. W. Atwood, 130. County treasurer, Charles Sifford, 199 majority over Ed Drewry. H. A. Battie, 1,055 majority over Ed H. Berg and Sterling Wells for sheriff. C. H. Jump, 475 majority over J. M. Holiday and Walter Guthridge for superintendent of schools. A. T. Martin, 2,010 majority over Phil Huston for surveyor. Thomas Farquhar, the full county vote for office of coroner. County supervisor, first district, August Lundell, 287 majority over John Gosch, second district, J. B. Williamson, 84 majority over James J. Fitzsimmons for supervisor.

## NOVEMBER, 1900.

For presidential candidates, William McKinley (Republican), 1,572 plurality over W. J. Bryan, 1,214; Wooley, 124; Barker, 3; Debbs, 8. County attorney, W. H. Hart, 1,481 majority over P. W. White. Auditor, George A. Taylor, 1,497 majority over W. W. Webb, with 109 votes for A. E. Forsythe. County clerk, George B. Perkins, 1,221 plurality over Charles F. Drewry and Sterling Wells. For recorder, Belle Henton, 1,075 majority over S. H. Neumaker and a vote of 106 for Charles A. Smith. Second supervisor district, J. W. Williamson, 309 majority.

## NOVEMBER, 1901.

For governor, A. B. Cummins (Republican), 1,883 plurality over T. J. Phillips, A. U. Coats, L. H. Weller. County treasurer, Charles Sifford, 1,438 majority over M. Bartlett. C. H. Jump, for school superintendent, 1,680 votes. Adam Teepell, 1,386 majority over Fred Buss for sheriff. A. T. Martin, 1,703 votes for surveyor. Coroner, T. Farquhar, 1,696 votes. First supervisor district, L. C. Holdridge, 430 majority over J. C. Hudson.

## NOVEMBER, 1902.

County auditor, George A. Taylor, 943 majority over Thomas Yauger and Everitt Lee. George B. Perkins, 921 plurality over A. H. Quail and S. Wells for county clerk. Belle Henton, 893 plurality over John Seivert and William J. Martin for school superintendent. W. H. Hart, 1,580 votes for county attorney—no opposition. A. McCorkindale, 418 majority over Peter Woleen for supervisor.

## NOVEMBER, 1903.

Governor, A. B. Cummins, 2,732; J. B. Sullivan, 731; John B. Hanson, 123; John M. Work, 27. County treasurer, William H. Pettis, 1,810; J. H. Denman 739. A. B. Teepell, 959 majority over Godfrey Struchen for sheriff. H. C. Cole, 839 majority over Kittie M. Howard for school superintendent. W. H. Townsend, 1,071 majority over F. W. Johnson for coroner. Supervisor, J. B. Williamson 622; W. H. McDonald.

## NOVEMBER, 1904.

Presidential candidates, Theodore Roosevelt, 2,609; Alton B. Parker, 833; Swallow, 100; Debbs, 49; Watson, 9. County auditor, J. J. Harter, 1,673 majority over John Seivert. Frank V. Healy, 394 majority over John H. Ketterer for county clerk. H. S. Parker, 1,547 majority over W. B. Jenkins for recorder. A. B. Barclay, majority of 1,559 over E. Baker for county attorney. First supervisor district, H. C. Goodman, 734; J. W. Hartsell, 295.

## NOVEMBER, 1906.

For governor, A. B. Cummins, 1,940; Claude B. Porter, 931; John E. Shank, 33; L. S. Coffin, 57. County auditor, J. J. Harter all the votes. Frank V. Healy, 472 majority over H. Purdom for clerk. W. H. Pettis, 367 majority over Charles Goodenow for treasurer. H. S. Parker had the full vote for recorder. Malcom Currie, 1,055 majority over Robert Leach for sheriff. H. C. Coe, 2,120 for school superintendent. A. T. Martin, 2,067, all votes, for office of surveyor. Coroner, W. H. Townsend, full vote. H. C. Goodman, first supervisor district, 462 majority over A. D. Cloud. Charles Hechtner, 248 majority in second district. A. McCorkindale, 627 majority over James McGloin for supervisor in third district.

## NOVEMBER, 1908.

Presidential candidates, William Howard Taft, 2,366; William J. Bryan, 1,204. For governor, B. F. Carroll (Republican), 2,188; Fred E. White, 1,176; Brown, 66. County auditor, Harry A. Baxter, 576 majority over C. F. Brobeil. Frank S. Brown, 691 majority over J. H. Denman for treasurer. A. E. Baker, 1,131 majority over Ross Mayhall for clerk. Malcom Currie, 1,352 majority over J. Ed Johnson for sheriff. Charles Brynteson, 1,177 majority over D. W. Brunton for recorder. Robert L. McCord, Jr., the full county vote for county attorney. W. H. Townsend, the full county vote for coroner. Harry Wood, full county vote for surveyor. John R. Slack, the full county vote for office of county school superintendent. Charles Hechtner, 270 majority over Ira Conger for supervisor from second district. Ben Braughton, 160 majority over John Gosch for supervisor from third district.

## NOVEMBER, 1910.

For Governor, B. F. Carroll, 1,461; Claude R. Porter, 990; A. McEachson, 63; John W. Work, 20. Auditor, J. W. Neal, 1,673; Robert McTigue, 687. L. B. Rake, 717 over C. F. Brobeil for treasurer. C. M. Whitted, 1,487, F. E. Hunt, 757, for county clerk. Alexander Rogers, 1,528 for sheriff. W. W. Walton, 1,558, and W. H. Nicodemus, 679, for recorder. R. L. McCord, 1,565, and J. M. Highland, 768, for county attorney. School superintendent, J. R. Slack, 1,549; Lou Watson, 742; Harry Wood, 1,610, and J. W. Wilkinson, 715, for surveyor. W. H. Townsend, 1,638, and elected to office of coroner. First supervisor district, E. C. Fuller, 432; James McCormick, 164. Second district, Ben Braughton, 333; John Fuchs, 519.

## 1912.

Presidential electors, William H. Taft (Republican), 622; Woodrow Wilson (Democrat), 1,124; Chafin (Prohibition), 42; Eugene Debbs (Labor), 58; Roosevelt (Progressive), 1,819. For governor, George W. Clarke (Republican), 1,442; E. G. Dunn (Democrat), 1,193; C. D. Jones (Prohibition), 32; J. S. McCrillis, 52; John L. Stevens (Progressive), 702. For county auditor, J. W. Neal, 2,091; W. W. Chesley, 930. County treasurer, L. B. Rake, 1,997; J. Kessler, 996. County clerk, C. M. Whitted, 1,915; A. B. Canady, 1,037; B. E. Adams, 44. For sheriff, J. W. Criss, 1,906; O. R. Finders, 1,117. Recorder, W. W. Walton, 1,925; J. R. Quinn,

1,057. County attorney, Malcom Currie, 2,114. Superintendent of Schools, John R. Slacks, 1,767; Esther M. Brown, 1,273. Coroner, Dr. W. H. Townsend, 2,227. Supervisor, first district, C. E. Fuller; second district, J. S. Havens.

#### SPECIAL PROPOSITIONS AND ELECTIONS.

In the history of Sac county there have been the following propositions voted on at regular and special elections:

At the August election in 1856 the question of allowing swine to run at large was voted upon in this county, and resulted in a vote of fourteen majority for restraining swine.

At the above annual election there was two majority for the calling of a constitutional convention in Iowa.

At the November, 1856, election the swine law was again up and this time "restraining hogs" was defeated by thirteen votes. At that election the result of voting on delegate to the state convention stood as follows: D. W. Price, 26 votes; D. E. Brainard, 5 votes. For a new constitution for Iowa, 27 votes, against the measure, 51 votes. For locating the county seat of Sac county at a point in the east half of section 23 and west half of section 24, township 88, range 36, there were forty-three votes polled and for its being located in section 1, township 87, range 36, twenty-seven votes. This election appears to have been certified to by the county board of canvassers and Samuel L. Watt, Robert Quail and F. M. Cory, justices of the peace.

A special election was held Monday, June 8, 1858, on the question of having state banks in Iowa. The result was: Forty-four votes for and none against the proposition.

In April, 1859, a special election was held to determine whether twenty-five thousand dollars worth of Sac county swamp land should be voted to aid in the construction of a railroad through this county. Result: Thirty-three votes, all cast against the measure.

To fill a vacancy in the office of county judge, the following call was made for a special election: "State of Iowa, Sac County: On this day the honorable County Judge, Abel J. Cain, tendered his resignation of said office, which is accepted, with all due deference for the honesty and integrity with which he has filled said office. On this day have also ordered an election to be held to fill the vacancy, which is done by putting into the hands of the sheriff of said county two notices for each township therein, dated this day

and calling for an election to be held on Tuesday, the seventh day of June, 1859.

(Signed) "W. H. HOBBS, Clerk.  
"Per D. C. Early, Deputy Clerk."

The result of the election named above was as follows: William J. Wagoner, 25 votes; Henry A. Evans, 23 votes.

At the election on July 7, 1860, the question of whether or not a court house should be erected in Sac county to cost ten thousand dollars, by bonding the county at ten per cent. bonds, was held. The question called for two distinct expressions from the voters of this county. One was on the original question and the other on the tax levy for the same object. The total number of votes cast was forty-one, on both measures. There were 23 votes cast for the propositions and 18 against them. (See court house history in County Government chapter in this volume.)

A special election was held March 1, 1862, on the swamp land question. Thirty-three votes were cast for ratifying a contract and transfer of swamp lands, and six votes were cast against the proposition. At the annual election of 1862, held in October, the matter of bonding the county warrants was up and resulted in twelve votes for bonding and none against the proposition.

The special election held in February, 1863, had for its issue the question of whether the county should use the court house money for buying in the county orders outstanding. The result was thirty-two for and six against the measure.

In 1867, at the annual election, the question of stock running at large came up before the voters of this county, and it resulted in, for restraining stock, 137; against the measure, 46 votes.

At the same date the question of locating the court house in the public square was up and resulted in 156 votes for the proposition and 101 against it. At the November annual election in 1872 the question of building the court house in the public square came up and resulted as follows: For, 276; against the measure, 130.

At the same time the question of borrowing thirty thousand dollars with which to build a court house was up and resulted as follows: For borrowing, 276 votes; against borrowing, 130 votes.

In October, 1874, the question of stock running at large was again up and resulted as follows: For restraining stock, 470 votes; against the proposition, 2 votes.

## ELECTION CONTEST.

On August 5, 1857, in the county court was present County Judge S. L. Watt, F. M. Cory, Robert Quail, former county commissioner, also came Eugene Criss and A. J. Cain, who were decided to be tied in votes of said county for the office of county judge. The canvassers prepared the lot slips for the two candidates, and the result was that the lot marked Abel Cain was drawn and he was declared county judge.

On October 8, 1857, William Kromer was appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of prosecuting attorney, and he forthwith qualified to fill such position and gave sufficient bond. October 12th, that year, William V. Lagourge was appointed deputy sheriff.

On October 19, 1857, F. M. Cory was appointed messenger, with the abstract of election for state representative in the thirteenth district in Iowa. His appointment was made by County Judge A. J. Cain.

## PROHIBITORY AMENDMENT VOTE, JUNE 27, 1882.

On June 27, 1882, all the counties in Iowa voted at a special election on the question of whether or not there should be added to the Constitution in Iowa a prohibitory liquor clause which had for its object the prohibition of all alcoholic liquors, including ale, wine and beer. By townships the vote in Sac county stood as follows:

	For	Against		For	Against
Boyer Valley -----	64	39	Jackson -----	219	48
Cedar -----	64	6	Levy -----	81	74
Clinton -----	80	27	Richland -----	225	93
Cook -----	101	13	Sac -----	54	61
Coon Valley -----	54	26	Viola -----	24	64
Delaware -----	71	14	Wall Lake -----	102	43
Douglas -----	51	2	Wheeler -----	76	12
Eden -----	58	12		—	—
Eureka -----	59	14	Total vote -----	1,383	548

In the state it carried by a majority of about thirty thousand, but was later declared unconstitutional on a technicality, the error of an engrossing clerk in the House of Representatives, who left out a single word in the record that had been in the original bill. Since then many local option schemes have been in vogue to control the sale of liquor in Iowa, and today



more than seventy-five per cent. of the counties are practically saloonless or in the column known as "dry," while the remainder of the counties are still classed in the "wet" column. At this date (January, 1914), Sac county is a "dry" county.

Under the present law an election was held in 1899 to determine whether the county would permit saloons to exist within this county, and the same resulted in 2,239 votes being cast for saloon licenses being granted, but this was not sufficient, as the legal number required was sixty-five per cent. of the voters, which would have been 2,293, so the county went into the "dry" list.

## PRESIDENTIAL VOTE OF COUNTY.

Republican.	Votes.	Democratic.	Votes.
1856—John C. Fremont-----	25	James Buchanan -----	35
1860—Abraham Lincoln -----	25	Stephen A. Douglas -----	40
1864—Abraham Lincoln -----	44	George B. McClellan -----	22
1868—U. S. Grant -----	132	Horatio Seymour -----	45
1872—U. S. Grant -----	305	Horace Greeley -----	48
1876—Rutherford B. Hayes (maj.) -----	495	Samuel J. Tilden -----	
1880—James A. Garfield -----	1,346	W. S. Hancock -----	425
1884—James G. Blaine (maj.)—	673	Grover Cleveland -----	
1888—Benjamin Harrison -----	1,831	Grover Cleveland -----	1,002
1892—Benjamin Harrison -----	1,188	Grover Cleveland -----	1,264
1896—William McKinley -----	2,513	W. J. Bryan (Dem.)-----	1,346
		Gen. Palmer (Gold Dem.)----	17
		Levering (Prohib.) -----	36
		Bently (National) -----	5
		Matchett (Social Labor) -----	1
1900—William McKinley -----	2,786	W. J. Bryan (Dem.)-----	1,214
		Wooley (Prohib.) -----	124
		Barker (M. P.) -----	3
		Debs (Soc. Dem.) -----	8
1904—Theodore Roosevelt ----	2,609	Alton B. Parker (Dem.)-----	833
		Rev. Swallow (Proh.) -----	100
		Debs (Labor) -----	49
		Watson (Socialist) -----	9
1908—William H. Taft -----	2,366	William J. Bryan (Dem.)-----	1,204
1912—William H. Taft -----	602	Woodrow Wilson (Dem.)-----	1,102
		Theo. Roosevelt (Progressive)---	1,768

## GUBERNATORIAL VOTES.

Republican.		Democratic.	
1857—Ralph P. Lowe -----	8	Democratic Nom. -----	43
1859—Samuel J. Kirkwood---	28	A. C. Dodge -----	37
1861—Samuel J. Kirkwood---	5	W. H. Merrett -----	43
1863—William M. Stone ----	21	James M. Tuttle -----	25
1865—			
1867—Samuel Merrill -----	132	Charles Mason -----	34
1869—Samuel Merrill -----	185	Geo. Gillespie -----	55
1871—Cyrus C. Carpenter ----	137	J. C. Knapp -----	89
1873—Cyrus C. Carpenter----	332	Jacob G. Vale -----	93
1875—S. J. Kirkwood -----	515	Shepherd Leffler -----	185
		J. H. Lozier (Proh.)-----	2
1877—J. H. Gear (Maj.)----	528	John P. Irish -----	
		D. P. Stubbs -----	
		E. Jessup (Proh.) -----	
1879—J. H. Gear (Maj.)----	638	H. H. Trimble -----	
		Daniel Campbell (Grb.) ----	
1881—B. R. Sherman (Maj.)--	858	L. G. Kinnie -----	
1883—B. R. Sherman -----	1,358	L. G. Kinnie -----	606
1885—William Larrabee			
(Maj.) -----	548	Whiting -----	
1887—William Larrabee			
(Maj.) -----	555	T. J. Anderson -----	
1889—J. G. Hutchison (Maj.)-	315	Horace Boies -----	
1891—Hiram Wheeler (Maj.)-	458	Horace Boies -----	
1893—			
1895—F. M. Drake (Maj.)---	962	W. I. Babb -----	745
		S. B. Crane -----	305
		Francis Bacon -----	93
1897—			
1899—Leslie M. Shaw -----	2,151	Fred E. White -----	1,155
1901—Albert B. Cummins----	1,605	T. J. Phillips -----	422
		A. U. Coats -----	188
		L. H. Weller -----	9
1903—Albert B. Cummins ---	2,732	J. B. Sullivan -----	731
		John B. Hanson -----	123
		John M. Work -----	27

Republican.		Democratic.	
1906—A. B. Cummins	-----1,940	Claude B. Porter	----- 931
		John E. Shank	----- 33
		L. S. Coffin (Proh.)	----- 57
1908—B. F. Carroll	-----2,188	Fred E. White	-----1,176
		Brown	----- 66
1910—B. F. Carroll	-----1,461	Claude R. Porter	----- 993
		John W. Work	----- 20
1912—George W. Clarke	-----1,442	Ed C. Dunn	-----1,192
		John L. Stevens	----- 659

## CONGRESSIONAL VOTE.

The following shows the vote on representative in Congress from 1856 to 1882, in Sac county:

	Republican.	Democratic.	Greenback.
1856	----- 20	17	---
1858	----- 31	37	---
1862	----- 23	7	---
1864	----- 44	22	---
1866	----- 64	34	---
1868	----- 132	45	---
1870	----- 204	52	---
1872	----- 287	117	---
1874	----- 398	134	---
1876	----- 659	162	138
1878	----- 614	64	391
1880	-----1,350	743	59
1882	-----1,116	535	59

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

The following is a list of representatives in the state Legislature from Sac county by sessions: Eugene Criss, in the twelfth session; George H. Wright, thirteenth session; James N. Miller, fifteenth session; D. J. McDaid, in the eighteenth and twentieth sessions; Phil Schaller, twenty-first session; I. S. Hunter, in the twenty-second session; A. B. Smith, twenty-third session; William P. Drewry, twenty-fourth session; Charles L. Early, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions; Charles E. Stalcoop, twenty-seventh and twenty-

eighth sessions; Joseph Mattes, twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first sessions; Will Drury, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions; W. J. Dixon, thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions.

## COUNTY OFFICERS.

From rather imperfect election records, it appears that the following is about the order in which the county officers in this county have served since its organization, more than fifty years ago:

## COUNTY JUDGES.

The dates given are supposed to be the year in which they were elected. S. L. Watt, 1856; A. J. Cain, 1857; Eugene Criss, 1859; John Alexander, 1861; John Alexander, 1863.

## COUNTY AUDITORS.

The office of county judge was abolished in 1868, to take effect January 1, 1869, when the office of county auditor was created to go into effect. The first to hold this office was William H. Hobbs, in 1869, having been elected in the fall of 1868. The list since that date has been: William Chapin, 1871; William Chapin, 1873; William Chapin, 1875; A. D. Peck, 1877; A. D. Peck, 1879; A. D. Peck, 1881; A. D. Peck, 1883; A. D. Peck, 1885; C. C. Cleveland, 1887; C. C. Cleveland, 1889; J. W. Wilson, 1892; J. W. Wilson, 1894; A. H. Montgomery, 1896; A. H. Montgomery, 1898; George A. Taylor, 1900; George A. Taylor, 1902; J. J. Harter, 1904; J. J. Harter, 1906; Harry A. Baxter, 1908; J. Wilbur Neal, 1910; J. W. Neal, 1912.

## COUNTY TREASURERS.

The offices of treasurer and recorder prior to 1864 were combined in one office, known as "treasurer and recorder." D. C. Early was the first to hold the office in Sac county. He was elected in 1856. He succeeded himself in 1859 and 1861; N. W. Condron, 1862; R. Ellis, 1867; Ed. R. Duffie, 1869; W. H. Hobbs, 1871; W. H. Hobbs, 1873; W. H. Hobbs, 1875; Phil Schaller, 1877; Phil Schaller, 1879; Phil Schaller, 1881; Phil Schaller, 1883; Thomas J. Marks, 1885; Thomas J. Marks, 1887; J. C. Bodine, 1889; R. G. Wilson, 1891; R. G. Wilson, 1893; D. E. Spafford, 1895; D. E. Spafford, 1897; D. E.

Spafford, 1899; Charles Sifford, 1901; Will H. Pettis, 1903; Will H. Pettis, 1906; Frank S. Brown, 1908; L. B. Rake, 1910; L. B. Rake, 1912.

#### COUNTY RECORDERS.

This office was same as treasurer until 1864—See list. N. W. Condron was the first to hold the single office of "recorder," and was succeeded by himself in 1868; William Chapman, 1870; Levi Davis, 1872; N. B. Flack, 1874; N. B. Flack, 1876; N. B. Flack, 1878; N. B. Flack, 1880; W. F. Moyer, 1882; W. F. Moyer, 1884; W. F. Moyer, 1886; W. F. Moyer, 1888; W. F. Moyer, 1890; A. L. Clouser, 1892; A. L. Clouse, 1894; George W. Cochrane, 1896; G. W. Cochrane, 1898; Belle Henton, 1900; Belle Henton, 1902; H. S. Parker, 1904; H. S. Parker, 1906; Charles Brynteson, 1908; W. W. Walton, 1910; W. W. Walton, 1912.

#### SHERIFFS.

Andrew J. Taylor, 1857; Miles Manning, 1859; David Basler, 1861; David Barber, 1863; J. S. Tiberghien, 1867; William Impson, 1869; Charles W. Allen, 1871; W. L. Pratt, 1873; Criss Waddell, 1875; C. Waddell, 1877 and 1879; H. L. Wilson, 1881; H. L. Wilson, 1883; Thomas Batie, 1885; Thomas Batie, 1887; H. B. Allen, 1889; H. B. Allen, 1891; A. DeGarmo, 1893; A. DeGarmo, 1895; H. A. Batie, 1899; Adam Teepell, 1901; A. B. Teepell, 1903; Malcom Currie, 1906; Malcom Currie, 1908; Alexander Rogers, 1910; J. W. Criss, 1912.

#### COUNTY CLERKS.

The first to hold this important office in this county was H. A. Evans, elected in 1856; William Hobbs, 1858; J. G. Browning, 1860; William H. Hobbs, 1864; William H. Hobbs, 1868; L. Davis, 1870; John Alexander, 1872; John F. Moody, 1874; John F. Moody, 1876; C. E. Lane, 1878; C. E. Lane, 1880; C. E. Lane, 1882; C. E. Lane, 1884; C. E. Lane, 1886; Charles L. Early, 1888; Charles L. Early, 1890; W. J. Dixon, 1892; W. J. Dixon, 1894; R. G. Wilson, 1896; W. C. Waddell, 1898; George B. Perkins, 1900; George B. Perkins, 1902; Frank V. Healy, 1904; Frank V. Healy, 1906; A. E. Baker, 1908; C. M. Whitted, 1910; C. M. Whitted, 1912.

## COUNTY SUPERVISORS.

The following, with possibly a few others, have constituted the county supervisors of Sac county during the years of its history. Until about 1876 there was one member of the board from each civil township, but since then the county has been divided into three supervisor districts and one member elected from each. The records show that in 1861 the supervisors included the names of M. S. Lee and T. K. Lane; in 1862, W. H. Hobbs, T. K. Lane, M. S. Lee; in 1864, M. S. Lee, F. M. Cory, Joseph Williams; in 1866, came William Montgomery, chairman, W. W. Lagourge; 1868, Joseph Williams, William Montgomery, W. W. Lagourge; 1869, H. W. Crandall, Washington Allen, H. A. Pierce; 1870, Washington Allen, H. A. Pierce, Edwin Miller, H. A. Pierce, J. H. Underwood, Mr. Tiberghien; 1873, Tiberghien, Underwood and Pierce, with E. R. Chase, J. O. Platt, Phil Schaller, S. E. Gordon, C. N. Levy; in 1874, N. Prentice, C. N. Levy, J. O. Platt, Phil Schaller, S. E. Gordon, William Hawks, J. H. Wodell, E. Criss; elected in 1874, J. N. McClellan, Andrew Mason, Phil Schaller; in 1875, E. Criss, S. E. Gordon; in 1876, William Hawks, O. Birt; in 1878, Henry Reinhart, E. Criss, J. C. Bodine, James Fleming; in 1879, William Hawks, J. C. Bodine, M. S. Lee; in 1881, Pierce Coy and E. Criss; in 1882, William Hawks, William Montgomery; in 1883, Henry Reinhart, D. R. Herrold; in 1884, Messrs. Pierce and I. S. Baily; in 1885, H. H. Fitch; in 1886, C. W. Marcy, W. W. Shaw; in 1887, C. H. Babcock, C. L. Martin; in 1888, H. H. Fitch; in 1889, Messrs. Hahne and C. W. Marcey; in 1890, C. H. Babcock; in 1892, first district, M. E. Wright; in 1894, James A. Neal, Reuben Lewis; in 1895, M. E. Wright; in 1896, August Lundell; in 1898, L. C. Holdridge, in 1899, first district, August Lundell, second district, J. B. Williamson; in 1900, J. B. Williamson; in 1902, A. McCorkindale; in 1903, J. B. Williamson; in 1904, first district, H. C. Goodman; in 1906, first district, H. C. Goodman, second district, Charles Hetchner, third district, A. McCorkindale; in 1908, second district, Charles Hechtner, third district, Benjamin Braughton; in 1910, first district, E. C. Fuller, second district, John Fuchs.

## COUNTY CORONERS.

In 1856 Joseph H. Austin was elected coroner of Sac county and following him came the following, elected at the time indicated: J. H. Austin, 1857; Elias Tiberghien, 1861; Dr. R. G. Platt, 1869; D. M. Lamoreaux,

1871; Dr. William Warren, 1873; S. W. Duncan, 1874; Dr. A. T. Brenton, 1877; Dr. Z. Fuller, 1879; C. M. Hopkins, 1880; C. Brown, 1883; C. Brown, 1887; C. Brown, 1891; C. M. Hopkins, 1893; C. M. Hopkins, 1895; Thomas Farquhar, 1899; T. Farquhar, 1901; W. H. Townsend, 1906, 1908, 1910 and 1912.

#### SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

The office of county school superintendent has had numerous changes in Iowa, since Sac county was first organized. At first there was what was styled a school fund commissioner, which office in 1858 was changed to that of "superintendent." This was an elective office until by the provisions of the Iowa Legislature at a recent session, when it was changed so that it has the same duties to perform, but instead of being elected at the general elections by the people, it is one in which the holder is elected by the various school boards within the county.

The first school fund commissioner in Sac county was William Todd, elected in August, 1856. G. F. Browning, the first school superintendent, was elected in 1858; William Todd, 1861; William Kromer, 1863; William Chapin, 1865; William P. Drewry, 1867; R. Ellis, 1869; R. Ellis, 1871; John Dodson, 1873, also 1875; James Darling, 1877; same in 1879; H. L. Martin, 1881 and 1883; Clarence Messer, 1887; same in 1889; C. E. Stalcoop, 1891, also in 1893; J. W. Jackson, 1895; C. H. Jump, 1899, also in 1901; H. C. Coe, 1903, also in 1906; John R. Slacks, 1908, and still holding the office.

The above are the principal officers of the county, and the others, such as surveyors and county attorneys, are named in the section of this book treating on elections, etc., hence need not be repeated in this connection.



## CHAPTER XVII.

### TOWNSHIP HISTORIES.

The civil township is to the county what the county is to the state. Each township has a government peculiar to itself, though in perfect harmony with its sister sub-divisions in the same county. Here in Sac county, fortunately, these civil townships are all the same in size, an even six miles each way, or a full congressional township. As now constituted and named they are as follows: Boyer Valley, Cook, Cedar, Coon Valley, Clinton, Douglas, Delaware, Eden, Eureka, Jackson, Levy, Richland, Sac, Wheeler, Wall Lake and Viola.

These townships have been constituted or organized at different dates within keeping of the advancing settlement of the county. The following is the order, according to dates when these various subdivisions of Sac county were made separate townships for governmental purposes: Sac and Jackson, 1856; Douglas, 1860; Boyer Valley, 1871; Wall Lake, 1871; Eden, 1871; Clinton, 1874; Cedar, 1875; Delaware, 1875; Eureka, 1875; Viola, 1875; Wheeler, 1875; Richland, 1876; Coon Valley, 1877.

Douglas township was taken from Jackson; Boyer Valley and Cedar taken from Jackson and Sac; Cook taken from Boyer Valley; Eden and Delaware taken from Douglas; Levey and Viola taken from Sac; Wall Lake and Clinton from Jackson and Sac; Richland was taken from Clinton; Coon Valley from Wall Lake township.

### NAMING OF TOWNSHIPS.

The various townships were named from the following facts and incidents: Sac township, from the name of the county and originally from the Indian tribe, the Sacs, who, with the Foxes, at one time held all this portion of Iowa.

Douglas, named after Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, who ran for President against Mr. Lincoln in 1860.

Delaware township, from some of its earlier settlers who came from the state bearing that name.

Eden township was named from the fact that the pioneers who settled here thought they had struck an earthly paradise.

Eureka, from "I have found it," as the settlers said when looking for a good section in which to claim land.

Cook township, for the largest farmer and landowner in the township and one of the largest in Sac county, Mr. Cook.

Boyer Valley township, from the river that flows through the county and finally empties into the Missouri at Council Bluffs.

Jackson township, after "Old Hickory," Andrew Jackson, a former President of the United States.

Cedar township, from the Cedar river, or creek, that courses through it.

Coon Valley, from the Coon river.

Wall Lake, from the walled lake in the southern portion of the county, of which so much has from time to time been written, but really the "wall" consists of the prairie boulders that have with passing generations been heaved up by the frost.

Clinton township was named after that most excellent county in eastern Iowa, from which many of the early comers to Sac came.

Richland township, as might naturally be guessed, was named for its excellent soil qualities.

Wheeler township was named in honor of Hiram Wheeler, the once great land owner near Odebolt, who was a candidate for governor on the Republican ticket and defeated by Hon. Horace Boies, when temperance was the leading issue in this state.

Levey township was named for C. N. Levey, an early settler and county official.

Viola township, from Viola, Illinois, by W. A. Robinson.

#### DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP.

Douglas township is in the extreme northeastern corner of Sac county and comprises all of congressional township 89, range 35 west, and is along the "correction" line of Iowa, with Buena Vista county at its north, Calhoun county to the east, Cedar and Jackson townships at the south and Delaware on the west. It contains thirty-six full sections. It was named in honor of that great Democratic statesman who was a candidate for President against the lamented Lincoln, in 1861—Hon. Stephen A. Douglas.

Coon river flows to the south, meandering through sections 30 and 31.

while small streams are found here and there over the prairie land of the township.

The population of Douglas township in 1910, according to the United States census reports, was five hundred and fifty-eight.

The schools and churches are named at length in general chapters in this volume.

The first settlement was effected along the river, as was the case in all new counties in the West. There are no towns or villages within the borders of Douglas township. At first Douglas was cut off from Jackson township in 1860, and at that date Douglas ran to the west line of the county and was one of three townships in Sac county, each being twenty-four miles long. In 1875 Delaware township was created, leaving Douglas as it is now bounded, only six miles square.

The settlers in 1855 and 1856 in what is now known as Douglas township were as follows: Martin Deardorf, who claimed land directly west from the M. S. Lee farm, on the river. He soon tired of the country and sold to George Stocker for five hundred dollars, and moved to Kansas. Mr. Stocker arrived in June, 1856, from Steuben county, Indiana. He did not remain after purchasing this claim, but went east and did not return until 1867, accompanied by his family. A son and his family are still residing in Sac City.

William Montgomery and a sister came in 1856 and claimed land just south of the first settlement, the same also being on the river in the timber. He was the first man married in the county, an account of which is given elsewhere in this work.

Another settler in 1855 was Adam Vetal, who claimed the land now included in the Lee farm, at the grove called "Lee's Grove." His brother, William Vetal, also came at the same time. He went to California in 1861 and Adam moved to Illinois.

The next to effect a settlement in the township, as now bounded, was Robert Quail, who took up land just to the south of the Lee place, probably in 1855, certainly not later than 1856. He claimed a quarter section. Later he moved to Missouri, where he died many years since.

It should be stated that the old Lee place was originally pre-empted by Seymour Wagoner, who bought it for speculation and never became an actual settler there.

On the south, still farther down the river, was the settlement of William Wine, in 1855. He remained several years and moved on to California in Civil War days. He was the grandfather of Lacy Wine, now a merchant in

Sac City. He had a large family, and immigrated from Indiana, claiming a quarter section of land here. It is now owned by W. B. Wayt and son, of Sac City.

About the close of the war came in William McDeid, Trowbridge Rouns-ville, now living in Sac City, but still holding his splendid farm in Douglas township. His brother, Sylvester, came also. James Gordon was another about that date to claim land in the township. The Gordon school house was the second one in the township, the first being the frame house erected at Lee's Grove, by James Davis. Many of the men who came in just after the war were returned soldiers.

The first cemetery, or country burying place, was on section 15. Later most of the bodies were removed to other cemeteries.

Sac City was the first trading place for this settlement. Grant City, then "Big Grove," also had some facilities in that line, including a corn grinding mill, if such it might have been called. It was to this mill that many of the settlers in Sac City and those further up the river had to go in the dead of that memorable winter of 1856-57, with a sack or more of shelled corn, tied onto a long hand sled, and in this manner obtained the use of a huge coffee mill at Grant City, and thus stayed up all night, each taking his turn at grinding by hand a little corn meal upon which the Cory and other families managed to get through until spring came. Coons were then killed for the rich fat they contained, and with this "coon-grease" the good housewife would grease the griddle and fry the johnnycakes, over the brightly glowing fire place.

The first settlers were mostly all Americans, but after the war there came in a goodly number of thrifty German families.

Rush lake, on section 9, was a noted early-day swamp and lake, but, thanks to modern drainage and tiling methods, it has all been reclaimed and here one finds the best of crops growing annually. One of the big dredge-ditches of Sac county runs through the bed of this old lake.

#### WHEELER TOWNSHIP.

Wheeler is the extreme southwestern subdivision in Sac county and was named for Hon. Hiram C. Wheeler, the once great farmer of this section of the Northwest. It was organized in 1875. In 1880 its population was six hundred and twenty-seven. In the census books for 1910 it is given as six hundred and thirty-one. Wheeler is bounded on the east by Levey township, on the north by Richland, on the west by Ida county and south by Crawford

county. It comprises all of congressional township 86, range 38 west. It is a magnificent farming section—one of the finest in Iowa. It has no native timber, but several small prairie creeks which water and drain the fertile farming lands which have ever been famous for productive qualities. Wheeler has no towns within its borders, but is near by Odebolt, the second largest town in the county. The great Wheeler ranch or stock farm occupied, originally, a large portion of the township's valuable land, but of recent years the larger farms have been reduced somewhat and are gradually coming into the hands of more farmers than hitherto. Its railroad facilities are the Chicago & Northwestern line from Wall Lake west to Onawa. This road just touches the northeastern corner of the township.

The settlement here was effected as early as 1871 and was made by Americans and a large Swede colony in the southern part of the township. This has long since been known as one of the banner agricultural districts of Iowa. Stock raising and general farming predominate. The schools are excellent and are treated with others in the chapter on Education.

The first election in the township was held in October, 1875, when Daniel Leshar and William Henderson were elected justices of the peace; Martin Purcell, assessor; A. D. Peck, first clerk (by appointment); trustees, John Bruce, Solomon Peterson, A. D. Peck; Orin Haskins and Louis Lumberg, constables. The first road supervisors were A. P. Nelson and G. A. Gustafson.

#### COON VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Coon Valley township was organized in 1877, and in 1880 reported a population to the federal census enumerator of four hundred and nine. Its population in 1910, as shown by the United States census reports, was seven hundred and twenty-three. It derives its name from the fact that the coon river flows through its territory. Nearly all of the lesser streams of the township flow into the Coon and later find their way into the Des Moines.

This township is on the eastern line of Sac county, with Calhoun county for its eastern boundary line, Cedar township, this county, on the north, Wall Lake township on the west and Sac township on the south. Some timber skirts the banks of the streams, especially the Coon river. It is now all well improved and its people happy and, generally speaking, very thrifty and prosperous. Its excellent schools are named in the Educational chapter in this volume. There are no towns or hamlets within Coon Valley township. The land owners and settlers of today trade at Lake City, Sac City, Lake View or Auburn, usually. Sac City being the nearest, and it being the seat

of justice, farmers naturally go to that point for most of their supplies, as well as banking.

In 1882 a cream station was established at the place known as Pettis, and, from paper files, it appears that six miles southeast of Sac City, where Pettis was located, a creamery was burned in December, 1901, causing a loss of two thousand five hundred dollars. It was owned by W. H. Pettis, who had an insurance on the plant amounting to one thousand five hundred dollars. The cause was a defective flue. The plant was never rebuilt.

This township is an exceptionally well watered and naturally drained portion of the county. Its farmers are not afflicted with the go-to-town habit, but remain at home largely, and the result is that the township has many fine farm homes, with general prosperity around them, perhaps more so than as though the township had a large number of towns and hamlets within its borders.

#### COOK TOWNSHIP.

Cook township is on the western border of Sac county and is the second from the north line, with Eureka and Eden at its north, Boyer Valley at its east, Richland township to the south and Ida county at the west. It comprises all of congressional township 88, range 38 west, and its north line is the "correction line" of the northern portion of Iowa. Here the jog in township surveys varies three miles, the townships to the north of this lapping by to the west that distance. This civil township was once included within Boyer Valley township, but in 1876 was created into a separate township. In 1880 the census showed the population to be about four hundred, while it is given as six hundred thirty-five by the 1910 United States reports on enumeration. The first settlers were, inclusive of William Cory, 1868, J. E. Sanborns, Joseph Dick, Charles Prentice, for whom Prentice schoolhouse was named, and it was the first in the township, erected in 1872. Other settlers in Cook and Boyer Valley, some one side the line and some the other, were Elias Powers, Dr. Warren, H. A. Wilson, Hiram Sweet, J. Shelmerdine and a Mr. Hays.

Cook has no towns or villages and many large farms. A few of its small streams, mere prairie creeks, run toward the west, but most all flow to the east and finally find their way into the Boyer river.

Early, Schaller and Odebolt are all sought out by the residents of Cook township as trading and market towns.

It was in this township, but before it was divided from Boyer Valley,

that C. W. Cook, for whom the new township was named, commenced in 1873 to improve his great farm, known as the Cook ranch, or stock farm.

Of the excellent educational advantages afforded by the nine public schools, the Educational chapter will fully treat, in a general way, with the other districts of the county.

This township is well settled, highly cultivated and its people, both foreign and American born, are among the prosperous and contented portion of the population of Sac county. Here nature did much and man has improved such spots as needed improvement and utilized the fertility of the soil in the production of immense crops that have never failed to bring reward ample and sufficient to gladden the hearts of the husbandmen, who fully appreciate the fact that their lines have been cast in pleasant places.

P. W. Lashier became the pioneer settler in this township in 1870. H. A. Wilson, the Gardners and others soon followed him into the township, which at that time was a part of Boyer Valley township. The first trustee to serve in Cook as well as in Boyer Valley was P. W. Lashier, a man of good judgment.

#### THE COOK RANCH.

The *Inter-Ocean* of Chicago, in its issue of April 16, 1873, has this concerning the opening up of the great Cook ranch in Sac county: "A large sale of Iowa land was consummated yesterday, by which a Chicago resident, Mr. C. W. Cook, became the sole owner of twelve sections of farming lands in Sac county, Iowa. The purchaser proposes to convert the entire property into a mammoth stock farm. This tract embraces seven thousand six hundred and eighty acres and the amount paid was five dollars an acre, making a total of thirty-eight thousand four hundred dollars. The sale was made by J. B. Calhoun, land commissioner of the Iowa Railway Land Company." This land, we believe, all lies in West Boyer township. "This makes two seven-thousand-acre farms in Sac county. Better this size than none at all. We welcome Mr. Cook, and hope he will make a good farmer and get rich."—*Sac Sun*, 1873.

An advertisement was run in the local paper in Sac City in 1874 thus: "We have two hundred thousand acres of land all in Sac county, Iowa, and not to be excelled in any state of the Union. Prices of wild prairie average from three to six dollars an acre.—D. Carr Early, Real Estate Dealer."



## RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

Richland township is the second from the south and third from the north lines of Sac county, lying on the western border, with Ida county at its west, Cook township at its north, Clinton township at the east and Wheeler township at its south. It is six miles square, being all of congressional township 87, range 38 west. Its only town is Odebolt, in sections 27 and 34. Odebolt creek is the principal stream in this township. It is, strictly speaking, a prairie township, though now dotted here and there and everywhere with artificial groves, planted out by the hand of the thoughtful pioneers. It is a coveted garden spot and agricultural section, with thrift and contentment on every hand. Many of the older settlers have long since either died or retired to some one of the near-by towns, and are now enjoying the fruit of their earlier years of toil and sacrifice. This township was cut off from Clinton township by the board of county supervisors in the autumn of 1876, and was named "Richland" by a Mr. Stewartson, of Illinois, who saw great beauty and promise in this portion of Sac county, from the fact of its exceptional fertility of soil. Among the first township officers may be recalled C. H. Babcock, clerk; N. B. Umbarger and J. B. Caulkins, justices of the peace; Thomas Dorman and P. H. Sanderson, constables; A. L. Miner, S. Buchler and E. A. Bennett, trustees; W. P. Purcell, assessor; road supervisors in districts as follows: No. 1, A. Domenberg; No. 2, J. Miller; No. 3, E. Colvin; No. 4, J. Stickles.

When Hiram Wheeler, the proprietor of the "largest farm in Iowa," came to this township in the seventies, his nearest neighbors were fully twelve miles distant, but with his improving so many thousand acres of valuable land, came in many to assist him in his great undertaking. By the time this was accomplished others had found their way to the township and purchased lands which proved to be the best kind of an investment possible to make. Every foot of the land has long since been cultivated or used for pasture lands and hay lands by the actual owners. The above list of township officers probably made up nearly all of the first settlers in what is now Richland township.

The population of this township in 1910 was one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, including the town of Odebolt, which had at that date about one thousand two hundred and eighty-three.

The history of the schools and churches will form a part of other chapters in this volume.

## THE GREAT WHEELER FARM (NOW ADAMS' RANCH).

What is known by all early settlers in this part of the West as the "Great Wheeler Farm" of Sac county was the most extensive of any in Iowa, and contained more than a township of land. The first mention in the press of the country was the item in the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* in the month of October, 1871, which read as follows:

"H. C. Wheeler, of Chicago, elevator man, has bought seven thousand acres of land in one tract from the railroad company for the purpose of establishing a dairy farm on a large scale. Mr. Wheeler is known as a man of great wealth and energy, and when he undertakes anything he always carries it out successfully. He lost heavily in the recent Chicago fire, but it will not affect him much. He has now about sixty thousand feet of lumber on the ground out in Sac county, Iowa, and will commence at once to go to work erecting buildings suitable for the purpose intended."

This was said of the late Hon. Hiram C. Wheeler, of Odebolt, who was a candidate for the office of governor of Iowa against Horace Boies (Democrat) in 1891. The temperance issue was then on and many of the Republicans of Iowa left the party and voted with the Democrats at that time, hence this, with other reasons, caused Mr. Wheeler's defeat at the polls. After many years, Mr. Wheeler did not prove that he was possessed of as good business qualities as at first supposed. He lost much in Iowa, and finally sold and went to Texas and there engaged in another large dairy business, in which he signally failed. He lost his only son and became disheartened. He removed to Chicago and there died, September 25, 1909, almost penniless. His farm was sold in 1896 in Sac county, consisting at that date of about six thousand acres, for one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars.

In 1888 it was written of this large farming enterprise, by a Cedar Rapids newspaper correspondent, as follows: "By mere chance your correspondent and reporter got into conversation with Mr. Wheeler, the greatest farmer of all northwestern Iowa, and learned some items that are worth publishing. Talk about your manufacturing and jobbing in Iowa! There is no institution in the entire state that shows so stupenduous an exhibit of painstaking and good management as this Sac county farm. Seventeen years ago, Mr. Wheeler came to Iowa, and went to Sac county, bought his land, built his houses and barns. When a railway came along he donated liberally for a station and gave the site of Odebolt and today it is one of the most prosperous of northwest Iowa towns, growing commercially fast. The

magnitude of Mr. Wheeler's work can be understood when the products of his farm for the last year are given. He raised sixty thousand bushels of corn; twelve thousand five hundred bushels of timothy seed; six thousand bushels of oats; ten thousand bushels of flax seed; three thousand bushels of millet seed; and had seven hundred head of stock on his place, five hundred being breeding animals. In two years he expects to sail for Europe to purchase a stud of English and Scotch horses. He has ordered to have in readiness on his return, a barn, which to build will require seventy-five thousand feet of lumber. He will have his stock on exhibition at the Iowa state fair at Des Moines this fall. As a business man and manager of practical affairs, Mr. Wheeler has been a decided success. When he purchased his farm in Sac county, there was not a house within twelve miles of him."

In October, 1888, Mr. Wheeler had at Des Moines much of his fancy stock. On his farm he then kept thirty-three head of Norman-Percheron and English shire stallions. These were among the finest animals ever imported to the United States.

This famous farm has long since been in the hands of the Adams family, of Illinois, and has come to be a wonderful farm, especially as a successful sheep ranch, where the heaviest, finest grades of sheep are bred and grown. It is commonly styled the "Adams ranch."

The senior Adams is the one of Adams Express Company fame and the son, a middle-aged gentleman, is in company with his father and has sole charge of the great farm, living on the ranch a part of the time and in Chicago the remainder. This is especially a sheep ranch, but raises immense amounts of corn, which is marketed through their own elevator at Odebolt, where for many days in succession five car loads of shelled corn are shipped. The farm now contains twelve sections of land, all fenced off by mile lengths of woven wire, with concrete posts, which, together with the hundreds of beautiful shade trees which have been set out along the roadway and fences, give a charming appearance. This place is within both Richland and Wheeler townships. Oats and timothy are raised to feed the one hundred and twenty teams that are required to run the ranch. Over the long rows of sheep barns has been sentimentally painted in clear, attractive letters, the words "Feed My Lambs." In the plowing season there may be seen, all working at one time, eighteen gang plows and seventeen single stirring plows and eighteen manure spreaders and there are also eighty farm wagons. There are forty-five men employed in the slack months and one hundred and fifty men in the busy season. All are boarded in the buildings provided in a

village or group and no women are employed, but men do all the work both inside and out of the houses. The superintendents and bosses of barns, of fields and machinery, each have good residences and an office, while the great twenty- to fifty-thousand-bushel corn cribs complete the buildings of the ranch. The machinery, wagons, harness, mules and even the men have numbers and everything is carried on same as it is in railroad shops. The men are checked in morning, noon and night, and even the barn boss sees that each mule is properly watered and fed and bedded. The help may draw their pay each Saturday night if they so wish. There are usually two beefs slaughtered each week for feeding the men. One peculiarity is that not a hen or hog is kept on the place. The food is provided or prepared by two expert cooks and a number of flunkeys who serve and wait on the men at meal time. The buildings are heated by a furnace, the fuel of which is thousands of bushels of corn cobs, which in shelling time are placed in dry cribs and other places for future use. The wagons and machinery are all painted once a year. The place is provided with blacksmith shops, harness shops and repair shops. They put up their own ice and keep a dozen milch cows with which to provide the butter and milk for the tables. All is system and order here, and hundreds of visitors come from the surrounding country to see what a modern, up-to-date farm consists of. Everyone is welcome at the Adams ranch, a little more than a mile west of Odebolt.

#### THE TOWN OF ODEBOLT.

This is the second town in size in Sac county and is full of enterprising business and social factors. It is situated in the western portion of the county, on one of the most important branches of the great Northwestern system of railroads in Iowa. It was laid out by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company in 1877. It was built on the wild prairie, but today looks like a city much older, and has its thousands of beautiful shade trees and parks, with hundreds of modern, thoroughly up-to-date residences. Among the earliest pioneers of the town was M. H. Hempin, who was the first to engage in business at this point. He it was who sold construction supplies to the railroad gangs while they were constructing the railroad through the county. The first house was erected by W. Van Dusen, this serving both as a residence and store room for himself and family. He was soon followed by George McKibbin and James Ross. The railroad was finished to Odebolt November 19, 1877, the first train arriving at that date. Another very early

settler in Odebolt was H. T. Martin, who organized a Sunday school in December, 1877, and was also the first commissioned notary public. When the depot was finished in 1877, Mr. Martin was appointed station agent, and his daughter, Miss Emma Martin, was the first telegraph operator.

Of the town's population, let it be said that in 1885 the state enumeration gave Odebolt 954; the federal census of 1900 gave it 1,222; the state enumeration in 1895 gave it 1,400; the federal census in 1900 gave it 1,432; the state census in 1905 placed it at 1,431 and a careful estimate of the population in January, 1914, gives it a population of 1,300, which is in keeping with many of the towns and cities in Iowa, which, it will be remembered, fell off in population in the decade just preceding the last United States census enumeration.

Odebolt is on an elevation of one thousand three hundred and sixty-five feet above sea-level. It is well situated and a healthful location.

Odebolt was incorporated in the month of March, 1879, and the records show that the first officers elected were as follows: James Ross, mayor; J. M. Zane, recorder; John Wright, treasurer; Ward Van Deusen, J. Flanders, E. Geist, C. B. Hatfield, J. Bowles, councilmen. Those who have served as mayors to date include these: James Ross, J. H. Ketterer, William Graham, C. M. Miller, J. R. Reynolds, C. C. Coyle, F. P. Motie, William Graham, S. D. Selby. The officers serving in January, 1914, were: Mayor, S. D. Selby; clerk, A. F. P. Schmitz; treasurer, R. W. Sayre; marshal, E. C. Fuller; night watch-police, Julius Bingenheimer; council: F. H. Meyer, W. J. Ahlberg, M. W. Smith, J. L. Jones.

A fire company was formed at Odebolt in the early spring of 1880, as a hook and ladder company, consisting of forty members, all provided with suitable uniforms. In 1882 the foreman was J. Mattes; E. E. Hamlin, secretary; W. V. Sindt, treasurer; Dave W. Flack, assistant foreman. It is still kept up, and is a volunteer company, cared for by the town, and is furnished with excellent fire-fighting apparatus, including hose, hook and ladders, extinguishers, etc., backed by a good system of water works.

Recently a complete sewerage system has been among the improvements of the incorporation. There is no other Iowa town of its size having more cement sidewalks (there are, in fact, no wooden ones) than has Odebolt.

Two public parks adorn and make beautiful the town site, Hamilton park, a small tract named in honor of the well-known newspaper man, Will E. Hamilton, now deceased, and the larger tract, known as the City park, com-

prising a full city block, with its hundreds of beautiful shade trees, its seats and other attractions for the summer months.

The town has the advantage of two excellent telephone systems, the New State Company, with its two hundred and fifty 'phones connected, and the Sac County Mutual Company, with its five hundred and seventy-three 'phones in operation.

The town is supplied with gas by a private company, which furnishes a good grade of illuminating gas at reasonable rates. It is produced from gasoline.

The town hall is a spacious brick building, on the principal street, and here the council chambers, the fire department and a ladies' rest room are situated. This rest room has now an average of five hundred callers monthly and is greatly appreciated by the people from the surrounding rural districts. The public library is mentioned at length at another place in this chapter. The following religious denominations are represented at Odebolt: The Methodist Episcopal, the Catholic, the Presbyterians, the Swedish Mission, the Swedish Lutheran and Swedish Methodist. The lodges include the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities (see lodge chapter). A modern brick school house, costing many thousand dollars, was recently erected as a monument to the excellent educational interest taken at Odebolt.

Regarding the earlier conflagrations in Odebolt, it may be stated that on February 1, 1880, a fire originated in the carpenter shop of Geist & Buehler, at eight o'clock in the evening. It spread rapidly, getting beyond control in a few minutes. That fire destroyed the office and implement house of the best concern in town; also the clothing store of Todd & Company. The latter building was worth eight hundred dollars and the insurance was six hundred dollars. Todd & Company saved most of their stock, fully insured. Geist & Buehler lost two thousand dollars, with only four hundred dollars insurance paid. It has always been believed that the fire was started by an enemy of one of the firms which lost in the fire.

A history of the newspapers and lodges and Grand Army post will be seen elsewhere in this volume.

#### COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

Odebolt is an excellent business point—well thought of by the farming section surrounding it. Among the early enterprises may be recalled the flax-mill operated by Winslow & Son in 1880, when a large warehouse, with



steam power for driving the necessary machinery, was installed. Two years later the plant was owned by John Dement. Great quantities of flax were then being grown in this section of the country, the crop being both profitable to market, as well as one of the best soil-subduing factors possible to employ on the tough, wild prairie soil. This has all passed away and others crops and other methods have long since obtained.

When Odebolt was only five years old (in 1882) a business directory gave the following concerning the local business houses: Seven general stores, three groceries, two harness shops, two hardware stores, three drug stores, two jewelry shops, two furniture stores, three restaurants, two banks, three hotels, three grain elevators, three lumber yards, four agricultural implement dealers, three livery stables, four blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, three millinery stores, three barber shops, two meat markets, one photograph gallery, two printing offices, one ready-made clothing store, one exclusive dry goods store, three saloons and the postoffice.

Coming down to January, 1914, the business is in the hands of the following persons and firms:

Attorneys—W. A. Helsell.

Banks—First National, German Savings Bank, Farmers Savings Bank.

Barber shops—Martin Lanth, Charles Kellogg, G. J. Freese.

Bakery—G. B. Dolan.

Blacksmith shops—Kistler & Skeppstedt, Carlson & Varner.

Clothing—Brynteson & Reynolds, F. H. Meyer.

Drug stores—Engstrom & Huglin, Selby, Potteriger Drug and Jewelry Company.

Dentists—W. N. Ousler, E. L. White.

Dray lines—James Ellinger, Roy Purdy, Fred Haustetter, F. W. Libby.

Elevators—Reuber & Bruce, A. C. Petersmeyer, Dickinson Grain Company.

Furniture—C. J. Kircher.

Feed store—M. W. Smith.

Garages—Odebolt Auto and Supply Co., G. H. Frey and Ecinspahr Auto Company.

General Dealers—William Sampson, Kalin & Gilinsky, Co-operative Co., W. J. Ahlberg & Company.

Harness dealers—Odebolt Harness Company, Thomas McKeever.

Hardwares—Joseph Mattes, Koehler & Hanson.

Hotel—The New Bell, by Mrs. Julia McMartin.



- Hospital—The Odebolt.  
 Jeweler—H. R. Stanzel.  
 Livery—Horan Brothers, Benjamin McMartin.  
 Lumber Dealers—Green Bay Lumber Company, Bowman & Co.  
 Meats—M. H. Paul, P. L. Hedberg.  
 Millinery—O'Daniel Sisters, Horan & O'Meara.  
 Newspapers—The *Chronicle* and the *News*.  
 Opera Hall—"The Odebolt," C. J. Kircher, proprietor.  
 Photographs—A. W. Dahestrom.  
 Picture Shows—The "Cozy" and the "Princess."  
 Physicians—Drs. A. Groman, R. C. Sebern, R. C. Shaffer, E. H. Crane.  
 Pool Hall—J. A. Lampe.  
 Restaurants—Smith Brothers, Charles Larson, A. H. Shade, J. L. Jones, M. L. Briggs & Son.  
 Real Estate—Mattes & Selby.  
 Racket Store—William Sampson.  
 Stock dealers—Krusenstjerna & Paul.  
 Shoe repairs—Andrew Brynteson.  
 Tailors—Richard Horneisel.  
 Veterinary surgeons—Dr. F. E. Williams, Dr. L. J. Stratton.  
 Wagon repairs—J. E. Einspahr.

## THE FIELD-CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

The public library is an institution of which Odebolt is justly proud. Having its beginning in a literary club, it has since 1900 been supported by the city.

Fifteen women of the Woman's Reading Circle started a fund for a library in 1897. When they had accumulated about two hundred dollars they organized the Odebolt Library Association, a corporation with shares at five dollars each. W. W. Field subscribed five hundred dollars and other citizens of the town and county adjacent subscribed seven hundred dollars more. Books were purchased and the library opened in an upstairs room on Main street. This was in July, 1898.

Two years later Mr. Field offered to contribute five hundred dollars more on condition that the town accept the library as a gift and agree to levy an additional tax of two mills for its maintenance. The citizens, by vote,

accepted the proposition and the stockholders transferred their shares to the town of Odebolt.

For several years thereafter the library trustees repeatedly tried to secure funds for a building from Andrew Carnegie, but without success. Mr. Carnegie had issued instructions to his secretary to ignore all requests from towns of less than five thousand population and consequently letters from Odebolt were never brought to his attention. After repeated failures, through the efforts of W. E. Hamilton, Mr. Carnegie sent a favorable reply. If the town of Odebolt would furnish the site and agree to maintain a library at a cost of not less than four hundred dollars per year, Mr. Carnegie would be pleased to furnish four thousand dollars for a library building.

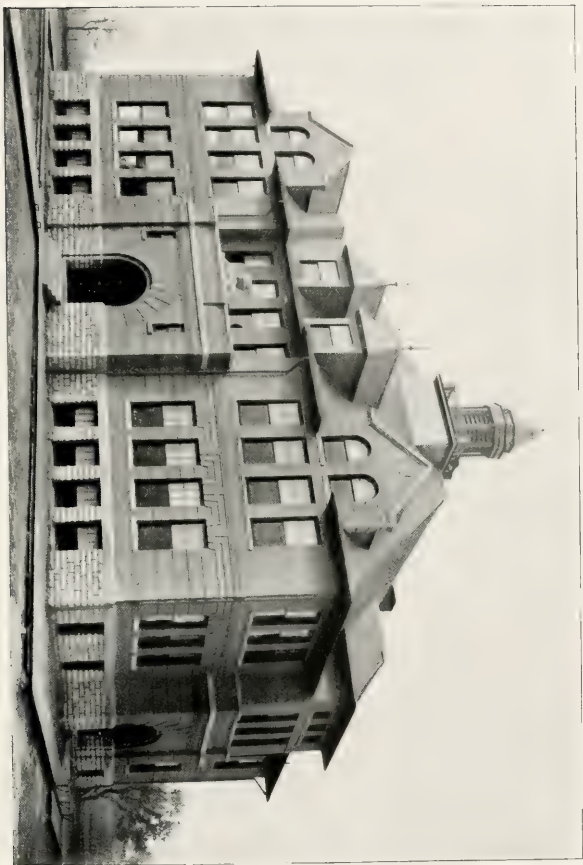
The proposition was accepted and Mr. Field purchased for five hundred dollars and presented to the town the lot on Second street where the building now stands. The site was a part of the residence property of A. C. Petersmeyer.

The plans were drawn by G. W. Burkhead, of Sioux City, and the contract awarded to Mr. Ketterman, of Ida Grove. The building has a front of fifty-one feet four inches and a depth of twenty-nine feet. The foundation at grade line is a coursing stone surmounted by Boone blue paving brick, with water table of Bedford stone. The roof is of slate, with a half pitch. On the front is a portico, upheld by pilasters and round columns of Bedford stone. The steps leading up to the portico are of cement. The walls and ceiling are tinted and frescoed, and all the furniture and book stacks are in quarter-sawed oak. The building is heated by furnace and lighted by gas.

The library is known as the Field-Carnegie library, in honor of the men who were the principal contributors. At his death, Mr. Field left in the hands of trustees an endowment fund of two thousand five hundred dollars, the interest of which is to be used for the purchase of books alone.

There are now over three thousand volumes in the library. Of these about one thousand are adult fiction, one thousand three hundred general reference, six hundred and fifty juvenile and eighty-five volumes of bound magazines.

In the reading room are two large tables surrounded by comfortable chairs where are found twenty-seven of the best current periodicals. These are kept on file and prove very valuable for reference work. The children's department occupies the east end of the reading room, with shelves along the wall filled with the best literature for children. A long low table, with small



ODEBOLT HIGH SCHOOL.



bent willow chairs, for the use of the children alone, is found here, where they can read comfortably their own magazines and picture books.

The library is free to all who reside in Odebolt and a fee of one dollar per year is charged to those outside. It is open three afternoons and evenings during the week and on Sunday afternoons for reading only.

The officers and board of trustees from 1911 to 1915 are as follows: Joseph Mattes, president; W. F. Bay, secretary; Lillian E. Hanson, librarian. The board consists of Mrs. C. K. Hinkley, M. D. Fox, A. C. Petermeyer, Joseph Mattes, W. F. Bay, W. N. Ousler, Mrs. W. A. Helsell, Mrs. W. A. Bennett and Mrs. Charles Coy.

This library was opened up to the public in March, 1905.

#### POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

Odebolt office was established in 1877 and the following have served as postmasters: Ward Van Deusen, F. R. Bennett, F. P. Motie, Walter E. Mathews, Mrs. Walter E. Mathews, W. W. Shanks, W. N. Ousler, the last named being the present incumbent of the office.

During the last fiscal year this office transacted a business amounting to six thousand dollars outside of all money order business. It is a third class postoffice, and has three rural free delivery routes extending out into the surrounding country. The present office force are: O. W. Larson, deputy postmaster; J. C. Blakley, clerk. The office is kept in the Joseph Mattes brick block, in the heart of the town.

#### CONCERT BAND.

The Odebolt Concert Band was organized January 2, 1914, under the patronage of the Odebolt Boosters Club. The musical director is D. W. Duncan. Its members consist of the following gentlemen: Charles Babcock, Russell Searight, John Kuhl, Jacob Konradi, Dewey Lonberg, Fred Steuckrodt, Paul Dahlner, Carl Korneisel, Eugene Reynolds, M. Billings, George Teaquist, Carl Peterson, Herman Godberson, Nicholas Konradi, Walter Searight, Harry Evers, Otto Freese, Lloyd Babcock, Walter Libby, John Erickson, Clifford Fuller, Frank Mattes, Art Anderson, Leslie Kiner, Wilkie Kiner, James Ellis, Vernie Paul, D. Kornsisel, Guy Babcock, Edgar Ellinger, Cloyd Levell, Ralph Cunningham, Theo. Erickson, Leslie Hanson, Harold Frevoit, Royce Engberg, Merritt Furrow.

## FAMOUS POPCORN INDUSTRY.

Let it be known that Odebolt is situated within the most famous popcorn center of the entire world. But few persons who purchase a sack of popcorn at a street corner or of an urchin at the train, ever stop to think where all this product comes from. It does not thrive in many sections of the world, and it is mostly grown in the Western states, with the largest acreage growing on Iowa soil, with Sac county as its center, and Odebolt the shipping point from which the major portion of it comes. Field and garden seeds and popcorn are the two greatest industries of the town of Odebolt. This county has just the right soil and climate to give the best results in popcorn production. Others nearby may be as good, but here the business has been successfully carried on for a number of years so satisfactorily that dealers and buyers seek no further in making their selection of corn. There is a great difference in popcorn, some being unfit for market and unfit for use. The dealers who handle this commodity at Odebolt have come to know just how to cure or keep this corn in a suitable condition to have the "best popping results," as they term it.

Recent writers who have looked into this industry state that nowhere in all the world is there as much popcorn bought, housed and shipped as from the town of Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa. It goes onto the world's market by the hundredweight and not, as other corn, by the bushel. An average yield per acre is two thousand five hundred pounds and the price per hundred pounds is about one dollar and twenty-five cents. While the expense of cultivating it is about the same as field corn, the cost of harvesting is fully three times as much. Many farmers have separate cribs and keep their corn over until the following season. Much money has been made from this simple crop. Some seasons, when the supply has been short and the demand large, the prices have reached as high as four dollars per hundred pounds, while at other seasons it has sold for much less than half that amount. The loss in cobs and shrinkage is about twenty-eight per cent. At two dollars and fifty cents per hundred, an acre of land will produce popcorn to the value of forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents. The corn is either grown in drills or check-rows. Planters are the same as for field corn and from five to eight grains are used for seed. In 1912 the Trans-Mississippi Grain Company bought popcorn at Odebolt, Arthur, Early and Battle Creek. The Odebolt crop averaged about three hundred and fifty pounds per acre, more than at any other of these points. It is said by experts that the most successful locality

to produce this crop in all the corn-growing belt is within a radius of about fifteen miles of Odebolt.

Among the earliest dealers and growers of this crop was the firm of Reuber & Bruce. Mr. Reuber commenced it about 1893. This firm now ships popcorn from coast to coast and from Canada to the far-off Gulf of Mexico. Shipments are made in car-load lots and in packages of a few pounds sent through the mails. All corn is graded and tested before it is sent out to customers. Three other firms also handle popcorn in Odebolt. The Dickerson Company, of Minneapolis, are exclusively engaged in this line of business, except that they usually carry a side-line of general garden and field seeds. Then there is the "Cracker-jack" and the "Checker-package" people, who come to Odebolt to purchase their supply of popcorn. At Arthur, near here, these companies recently erected popcorn elevators of their own. So great a demand is there for good corn that competition is sharp among the dealers at Odebolt, and therefore the farmer who raises it gets best possible prices. Not only do these firms secure the crop grown here, but also much from Nebraska, South Dakota and even up in Minnesota.

A use recently discovered for popcorn is that of making soft chocolate candies. It is used as a flour, which, as a mixture in this class of candy, causes it to stand up as no other ingredient will make it. Before ground, the corn is nicely popped. Candy firms are now buying this in carload lots. For this, and other reasons, the popcorn trade is annually increasing with immense possibilities for the near future.

Farmers have made good money at raising popcorn. One man, a few years ago, in this section, cleared ninety dollars an acre on a forty-acre tract. One industrious young man leased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, agreeing to pay one thousand eight hundred dollars rental in cash. He commenced without tool or teams, bought all on time, and the first year planted forty-five acres of popcorn; the second increased his field to sixty-five acres, making a total of three thousand five hundred dollars in the two years.

#### CEDAR TOWNSHIP AND LYTTON.

By C. Everett Lytton.

This township is situated on the east line of the county and on the second tier of townships from the north and is one of the best portions of the county.

The first settlement made in the township was about the year 1859, when a party, not known to the writer, settled on the southeast quarter of section 20 and built a cabin, broke out a few acres of sod and afterwards abandoned



the place as no good and in 1862, when the writer came to the county, the house had been about all carried away by settlers and the land had grown up to weeds. The next settlement was in 1866, when J. O. Tuffs and the writer moved onto section 16 and built a log cabin on the south side of the little grove that stood on the Cedar in the northeast corner of the section. After living there one winter and deciding that the bleak prairie was not the spot most desirable, the place was abandoned, thus leaving the township uninhabited again. In the fall of 1868 Oscar Whitney, an early resident of Sac City and one of the pioneer stage drivers, moved onto the west half of the southeast quarter of section 30 and became the first permanent white settler of the township. During the next year or two Henry Jones settled on the north half of section 31, across the road from the Whitney home. Soon after this settlers commenced to flock to this part of Iowa and in a short time the Blanks, Stadlmans, Arndts, Herrolts, and Youngs and others took up land and soon settlers could be seen on nearly every section in the township.

Cedar township bears the distinction of being the scene of the last battle between the Sioux and Sac and Fox Indians. The fight commenced near where the Cedar empties into the Coon and continued up the stream, the Sioux steadily retreating until they got near where R. M. Long and Joseph Young now reside, when they "took to the woods" and left the Sac and Fox the victors. This was the last time these tribes ever joined issues. The township also bears the distinction of having the first white-man murder ever committed in the county. During the fall of 1858 a man who had been murdered was found on what is now the R. M. Long farm on the west side of the Cedar, and the body left for the wolves and coyotes to devour. The parties finding the body buried it where found and a few days afterwards parties going past the place found the body had been dug up, the teeth all knocked out, the face disfigured and again left for the wild beasts to destroy all clues to the murder. It was never known who the victim was nor who committed the deed.

In an early day a town named New Munich was laid out on the west line of the township, on the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 19, but as no houses were ever built in the town, the site was turned back to farm land.

Lytton, a hustling little town of about two hundred and fifty inhabitants, electrically lighted, is the only town in the township. When the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad built their Storm Lake line from Rockwell City, the road passed through the township from east to west on the center of

the third tier of sections from the south. The town was platted on the P. B. Trumbauer farm on section 24 and has been a thriving little berg since first started. Gust Holm, F. H. Hollway and James Webb were the first men to enter business in the town. The business of the town is now composed of a bank, with twenty-five thousand dollars capital, three general stores, two hardware stores, drug store, furniture store, meat market, two lumber yards, two grain elevators, two agricultural machinery dealers, printing office, two restaurants, hotel, barber shop, pool hall, creamery, blacksmith shop, moving picture show. The Presbyterians have a church building and manse and the Odd Fellows are represented by a subordinate and Rebekah lodge.

The town was incorporated in 1911 with the following officers: G. B. Willhoite, mayor; C. Everett Lee, clerk; T. E. Corry, treasurer; C. S. Ferguson, assessor; F. A. Ayers, Thomas Schmidt, David Wickersham, F. E. Pratt and Frank Brobeil, councilmen. Charles Nuehring was appointed first marshal. The present officers are: G. E. Larimer, mayor; C. S. Ferguson, clerk; C. F. Brobeil, G. B. Willhoite, David Wickersham, Gust Holm and H. H. Oestrich, councilmen; T. E. Corry, treasurer; Frank Brobeil, assessor; A. M. Buth, clerk.

The township is settled by a very thrifty class of German and Yankee farmers and farm lands have already reached the one hundred and fifty dollars per acre mark and are destined to go still higher.

It may be stated in addition to what has been said by Mr. Lee concerning this township, that the territory hereabouts has been wonderfully improved by the thrifty farmers who came in in later years from Illinois, who have really reclaimed the township, which was none of the best till a few years ago, when this class of new men insisted upon better roads and looked well to the draining and tiling of the flat land. With such improvements, the township has come to be one of the finest, richest agricultural sections in all the county.

In 1910 the census reports gave this township eight hundred and seventeen population.

#### DELAWARE TOWNSHIP.

On the north line of the county, and the second from the eastern line of Sac county, is Delaware township, formerly a part of Douglas township. Douglas township bounds it on the east, Buena Vista county on the north, Eden township on the west and Boyer Valley and Jackson township on the south. It is all of congressional township No. 89, range 36. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad traverses the township from section 5 to section 36, almost

in a direct line, with a station point in the center known as Nemaha. The Coon river flows through its eastern sections and the territory is drained by this stream with its numerous small tributaries. The land is excellent, and all is now well improved and valued at from one hundred and forty to two hundred dollars per acre. The present population of the township is about seven hundred. The school and church history of the township is included in separate chapters on these two topics in this work. Delaware was created in 1876.

The first settlers, as near as can be determined by pioneer homesteader Truman Tole, now past eighty years of age, were as follows:

In 1866, during the spring season, Mr. Tole immigrated from Boonesboro, Boone county, Iowa, and took up a homestead of land in the northwest quarter of section 34, township 89, range 36, consisting of a hundred and sixty acres. He remained there until 1903, when he retired to the village of Nemaha, where he now resides. He saw many hardships, in the settlement of this township and, being poor at the date of his settlement, he was compelled to drive oxen, and was only too glad to have that good a team. He kept a few milk cows and made butter, the surplus of which he took, by means of his faithful ox team, to Newell, on the Illinois Central railroad, in Buena Vista county, where he frequently disposed of the same at from six to seven cents per pound. From 1866 to 1873 there was but little money in the county and homesteaders had hard work to live and meet expenses. The only thing that saved them was the fact that they had no tax to pay on their claims until they had proved up and received a deed from the government at the end of five years. Grasshoppers invaded this township, with others of Sac county, in the seventies and injured the growing crops materially, though not totally. The eggs of the winged pests hatched out one spring and when large enough ate much of the spring wheat, as it shot through the soil.

When Mr. Tole (sometimes spelled Towle) first came in with his family, in the autumn of 1866, he thinks that in what is now known as Delaware township (then in Douglas) there were no other settlers. The same fall, however, came in, as homesteaders, Charles Manska, in the northeast quarter of section 28, who remained long after he had proved up on his claim, making a good and worthy citizen. Louis Moine also came to the township that fall, settling in the southeast quarter of section 28. George McGeorge located along the western line of this township, or possibly over the line, in Eden township. There were but few others to add to the settlement until after 1871, when they came in more rapidly, continuing until the free and cheap lands were, for the most part, all taken by actual settlers.

The first schools for the township were the terms taught in the edge of Douglas township, along the river, where the timber lands had been settled for a number of years before this prairie portion of the county was utilized. It was not over three years, however, before a frame school house was erected in Delaware township. The law then permitted school districts to be organized when there were but few scholars to attend, and in instances only two pupils attended a school in a regularly built school house. The non-residents were taxed for such improvements, and just and right this was, too, for the pioneer made the county worth something to the Eastern land-owner.

The first mail facilities were afforded by going to Sac City, but as early as 1870 Scohara postoffice was established, but was discontinued not many years later.

The first meetings of a religious nature were held by the Presbyterians. The first Sunday school was formed by Mrs. Truman Tole. The only churches in Delaware township now are the two at Nemaha, the Methodist and Presbyterian.

#### TOWN OF NEMAHA.

Nemaha was platted October 2, 1899, by the Milwaukee Land Company in section 22, township 89, range 36. Among the first business men was a Mr. Smith, who conducted a general store for a time. Before that date many of the settlers went to Early and Sac City to do some of their trading, but for a number of years the larger transactions were had at Sioux City. The name Nemaha is from the Indian dialect. A postoffice was established with the construction of the railroad, and the postmasters have included Messrs. C. A. Lowe, Charles Howe, Addison Domino and the present incumbent, Fred Mack. A union school house for the whole township was dedicated early in 1914, the same being located in Nemaha, and cost about ten thousand dollars. (see Educational chapter).

The business of Nemaha in February, 1914, was in the hands of the following persons and firms:

Banks—The Nemaha State Bank.

Barbers—Harvey Ferguson.

Blacksmiths—J. E. Van Vleet.

Drugs—A. B. Patterson.

General Stores—C. C. Keeney, Fred Mack, Nemaha Co-operative Company.

Grain Dealers—Farmers' Elevator Company and a "line" grain company.

Lumber Dealers—A "line" company.

Physicians—Dr. Boherns.

Veterinary—Dr. Ed. Hann, V. S.

Lodges—Yoeman and Woodmen.

Furniture—The Nemaha Co-operative Company.

Feed Store—F. J. Mabie.

Cream Stations—Two in number.

Livery and Auto Companies—Mr. Bell, Clyde McDermid and M. Abernathy.

Meat Market—Fred Mack.

Hotel—The "Lidsey."

Restaurant—Mrs. Wilcox.

Hardware and Farm Implements—Harter, Wilson, Brownell & Company.

Postmaster—Fred Mack.

Depot Agent—G. S. Ferguson, for past fifteen years.

Stock Dealer—Ed. Burner.

Insurance—The Farmers Mutual Hail Storm Company, with the eight Rutledge brothers as proprietors. They are represented in every township in the state of Iowa, and carry millions of dollars worth of insurance on growing crops. Nemaha is the home town of this company.

The population of Nemaha is less than two hundred.

#### CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

Clinton township comprises all of congressional township 87, range 37 west, and is bounded on the north by Boyer Valley, on the east by Wall Lake, on the south by Levey and on the west by Richland township. It was organized in 1874, and in 1880 had a population of five hundred and twenty-two. Its population, as given by the federal census of 1910, was five hundred and one. It was at one date inclusive of the territory now embraced in Richland township. It is a beautiful and fertile section of the county. It is in the far-famed Boyer Valley section. This stream courses down from the north, entering the township in section 4 and runs a little east of south, leaving the township from section 35 over into Levey township and finally finds its way into the Missouri river just north of Council Bluffs.

This township takes its name from Clinton county, Iowa, where so many of the early settlers in this portion of Sac county emigrated from.

When the petition was up before the supervisors to have Clinton created as a separate township, the county auditor suggested that the oldest man of the township name the same, and hence it was that Marshall D. Fox, one of the petitioners, named it Clinton. It then included Richland and was six by twelve miles in extent of territory. The first election was held in the Petersmeyer school house, and M. D. Fox was elected first trustee, and N. B. Umbarger the first assessor in Clinton.

The third residence in this township was erected by M. D. Fox, in the spring of 1874, Mr. Martin having erected the second house, and the first was built by Jacob Brown in the autumn of 1873. Other early settlers were Charles and George Martin, Oscar and John Draper, Charles Sherwood and Archibald Ray.

In this township was one of the best flouring mills in the county. It was the property of Henry Reinhart, and was burned in May, 1884, causing a loss of ten thousand dollars, on which there was an insurance of four thousand five hundred dollars collected. The newspaper account of the fire reads as follows: "Henry Reinhart's flouring mill in Clinton township was totally destroyed by fire Saturday night. A fire was discovered in the roof, which probably caught from the smoke stack. It was promptly extinguished and a watch set for the night, and it was supposed all was safe. But at one o'clock A. M. Mr. Reinhart awoke to find the building again in flames, too far gone to save anything. Total loss was ten thousand dollars, covered by four thousand five hundred dollars insurance. Unless we get a railroad here in the county the mill will not be rebuilt, although the people at Odebolt are trying to get Mr. Reinhart to build a flouring mill at their town."

#### EDEN TOWNSHIP.

On the north line of the county and second from the western line, is Eden civil township, which comprises all of congressional township 89, range 37 west, this tier being the first north of the "correction line" of the state. It is six miles square and a very fertile portion of Sac county—well named by the pioneers. The Moville branch of the Northwestern railroad runs through sections 33, 34, 35, 28, 29 and 30. The nearest station points are Early, in Boyer Valley township, and Schaller, in Eureka township. The headwaters of the Boyer river are found in the northern portion of this township and the southern part of Buena Vista county. There are numerous smaller streams, all forming junction with this principal stream. For general farming, this part

of the county is not surpassed. Eden, which was constituted in 1871, had four hundred and eighty population in 1880.

The oldest settler still living in the township is Christian Schaeffer, who came into the territory now known as Eden township on May 7, 1870. Others of about that date, or a little later, were Christ Lucke, Fred Hahne and Adolph Martin, who all crossed the Boyer river and became settlers in this township. These all emigrated from Alamakee county, Iowa, in the autumn of 1870. Fred Hahne and Mr. Lucke came on in advance and took up land for the entire party. Before this settlement there were only two others within the township, Messrs. Hobner and Walter Toll, neither of whom remained to make a permanent settlement.

Eden and Delaware townships both originally belonged to the territory of Douglas township, but in the seventies a division was made and separate civil governments were formed of these two townships.

Of the schools and churches in this township, other general chapters will treat at considerable length. The population of the township, according to the latest (1910) United States census, is five hundred and eighteen.

Owing to the richness of the soil and the location, lands have steadily advanced in this section of Sac county, until today it is hard to find a man who cares to sell for less than one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and seventy-five dollars per acre. From this township have come several of the county supervisors and other officials of the county, all having the best interests of the county at heart while serving in an official capacity.

#### EUREKA TOWNSHIP.

Eureka (signifying "I have found it") was organized as a separate subdivision of Sac county in 1875. The first election was held by seven resident voters. The father of Joseph and Charles King, now residents of this township, was elected clerk at the first regular township election. He came to the township in 1871 and purchased a full section of prairie land of this township and was an honored citizen here many years, having much to do with the final development of this section of the county. In 1880 the township had three hundred and sixty population. In 1910 it had one thousand one hundred and sixty-six, with the town of Schaller, which had six hundred and forty-six.

Eureka is the extreme northwestern township in the county, being congressional township 89, range 38, and is bounded on the north by Buena Vista county, on the east by Eden township, on the south by Cook township and Ida



county (the north tier of townships being on the correction line of the state, making a set-off or jog of three miles to the west) and on the west by Ida county. It is six miles square. The Sioux City and Wall Lake branch of the Chicago & Northwestern railway runs through sections 25, 26, 22, 28, 29, 30 and 19, with the incorporated town of Schaller as its only town.

It is no wonder that the pioneers who settled here named it "Eureka," for they certainly found what they had been seeking—an excellent domain of fertile, even, all-good land, which at that day was bought very cheap, from four dollars upward to about ten dollars. Today the average land sells readily at one hundred and fifty dollars and much as high as two hundred dollars per acre. The population is a mixture of German and American of the higher, more intelligent class of both nationalities. Its population in 1905 was six hundred and forty-two, exclusive of the town of Schaller, and with it the population was one thousand two hundred and eighty-one. Of this number, only one hundred and seventeen were foreign born.

By drainage, good cultivation and general scientific farming, this has come to be one of the banner agricultural districts in the county.

#### TOWN OF SCHALLER.

This is one of Sac county's enterprising towns, an honor to any community. Its well-kept streets, its internal improvements, its charming park, shade trees, and first-class business houses, with churches and schools, all bespeak a high type of citizenship. The people of Schaller are for the most part prosperous and contented. Living as they do in the heart of one of the finest agricultural sections in this part of the state, their interests are naturally with those of the farming community. As a grain, stock and poultry market, the county affords no better place at which to do trading—both selling and buying.

The town was named in honor of that most popular and well-known pioneer German character, Phil Schaller, who died only a few years since as a resident of Sac City, where he prospered as an able business man and leader in Grand Army circles, he having been an Iowa soldier during the great Civil War. As a faithful, unflinching and highly honorable county official, no man stood higher than this man for whom the town was named. Schaller was platted in October, 1882, by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company, on section 26, township 89, range 38, and the year before the platting was executed the entire land upon which the present town stands was an immense field of

growing flax. Vast has been the transformation in these thirty-two years! It is within Eureka township and an important station point on the Chicago & Northwestern railway line, the second station north and west from Sac City. Among the modern improvements of the town may be named the magnificent two-story brick school building, the Methodist and Catholic church edifices, both recently erected on modern, up-to-date plans. When the town was originally platted by the railroad land company, the town site proprietors donated a full square, centrally located, to be forever used for public park purposes. The ground is now shaded and sheltered by hundreds of thrifty trees, towering heavenward twenty and thirty feet high. There are rustic seats, a band stand and other improvements. Space has been reserved for tents for public gatherings, lectures and chautauqua entertainments, etc. Schaller was legally incorporated as a town in 1883. The following facts appear of record in the court house at Sac City concerning this incorporation:

Having a population of over two hundred and fifty, in the month of March, 1883, Schaller citizens petitioned the court to be legally incorporated as a town, under the laws of the state of Iowa. The petitioners were as follows: C. W. Woodke, O. W. Woodke, Charles L. Early, J. S. Hudson, J. H. Walker, F. D. Beckel, Thomas A. O'Leary, A. P. Searle, B. D. Jones, S. A. Cobb, H. Keency, H. J. Hahne, Will Terrie, R. D. Murray, I. S. Hunter, F. G. Butler, F. F. Hall, Herman Hahne, R. L. Crosby, E. W. Walker, William McFarland, C. Meier, H. D. Quinn, W. Adamson, T. H. Hahne, M. C. Craven, Dr. S. C. Meyers, G. F. Chandler, James Waddicor, I. C. Hudson, T. J. Andre, M. D., D. D. Burman.

The circuit court of Sac county appointed the following commissioners to attend to the calling and holding of an election to determine whether the citizens wanted the place incorporated or not. Such persons were appointed, served and the election was held May 25, 1883, at which all of the fifty-two votes cast were for incorporation. The clerks of election were A. P. Searle, Charles Early. The judges were William F. Waddke, H. J. Hahne and I. S. Hudson. The election returns were certified to by J. S. Hudson. Thus the town of Schaller started on its journey, and has continued as a town ever since.

The first mayor of Schaller was Thomas Rey, who died while in office. The present (January, 1914) town officers are as follows: Mayor, H. I. Strahn; recorder, H. N. Snell; treasurer, Samuel Hahne; marshal, W. W. Allen; councilmen, C. B. Murray, M. Strom, J. B. Dakin, C. Walker and U. L. Requarette.

The following have served as mayors of Schaller: Charles L. Early.

1883; J. S. Hudson, 1884-85; Thomas Ray, 1886; J. M. Sears, 1887; J. S. Hudson, 1888-89; J. F. Butler, 1890; George S. Crandall, 1891-92-93; Alexander Wells, 1894; A. C. Gordon, 1895-96-97-98-99; J. F. Butler, 1900-01-02-03; George J. Speaker, 1904-05; Perry Rubendall, 1906-07; George J. Speaker, 1908-09; H. I. Strahn, 1910-11-12-13.

A system of water works was installed about twenty years ago, costing at the time about six thousand dollars. Water of the purest quality is obtained from two surface wells within the town incorporation. A stand-pipe and tank furnish the reserve water, which is forced by gravity to all portions of the town. A volunteer fire company gives ample protection to the property owners of the place. Hook and ladder, extinguishers, plenty of good hose and other apparatus aid the willing firemen in battling the flames, whenever they appear. The town has its own building or hall, in which the council meets and where is stored the fire apparatus.

In the fall of 1913 the town commenced the laying of an excellent system of earthware pipes for sewerage, which is to be in six streets. Before winter shut the work off, four streets had been completed and the remainder was laid in the early spring of 1914. The expense is taxed to the lot owners, except the cost of outlets and street crossings, which is paid from a direct general municipal tax.

The streets of the little city are lighted brightly by a gas plant of private ownership, known as the Schaller Gas and Fuel Company. This corporation commenced business about 1906 and now gives good service and general satisfaction. The churches, stores, halls and private dwellings all employ this lighting system.

Good cement sidewalks are in evidence throughout the town.

#### BUSINESS INTERESTS IN 1914.

The first man to erect a business place on the town plat of Schaller was pioneer J. S. Hudson, who still survives, and is the only remaining charter member of the Christian church of the town. He embarked in the general hardware business and carried other goods. He sold to the first settlers both in and out of his town. He has lived to see the following dealers now engaged in the various branches of trade:

Agricultural Implements—W. J. Howard & Son.

Banks—The State Bank of Schaller; The Schaller Savings Bank.

Blacksmith Shops—J. F. Ady, Andrew Anderson.

- Barber Shop—Fred L. Gilbert.  
Clothing—J. P. Rauch, G. W. Murray & Son.  
Cement Block, etc.—Aden Merkly.  
Drugs—Smith Brothers, C. C. Cowser.  
Dentist—J. E. O'Grady, D. D. S.  
Dray Lines—Rose Brothers, A. Potter.  
Elevators—Schaller Produce Company, J. B. Adams, Kuntz Elevator Company.  
Furniture—W. F. McLaughlin.  
Feed Store and Poultry—Rose & Potter.  
The "Fair Store"—John Gentry.  
General Stores—J. B. Dakin, J. A. Murray & Son, Lemke & Lemke.  
Garages—C. H. Reuber, G. B. Gould, A. D. & E. A. Woodke.  
Hardware—R. A. Skinner, James G. Fiar.  
Harness—E. R. Forney, August Christensen.  
Hotel—"Palace," by L. A. Seiling.  
Jewelry—John Hicks.  
Livery—Challman Brothers.  
Lumber—Gray & Crowley, Schaller Lumber Company (incorporated),  
by William J. A. Cizek and Henry Gloe.  
Millinery—Mrs. Ellen Broderick, Mrs. W. H. McKinney.  
Plumbers—George A. Higgins.  
Physicians—Drs. T. J. Andre, F. H. McCrey.  
Restaurants—R. H. Benson.  
Real Estate Dealers—H. I. Strahn, A. B. Challman.  
Stock Dealers—Fred Sewald.  
Meat Market—H. O. O'Daniels & Son.  
Newspaper—The *Herald*, by W. K. Whiteside.  
Opera House—"The Schaller," by J. I. Murray.  
Veterinary Surgeon—E. G. Martin.  
Wagon Repair—H. Swanson & Son.

Among the small manufacturing plants of Schaller may be named that of the Higgins Manufacturing Company, which concern makes a patented device for extinguishing street gas and gasoline lights automatically from the central station, by means of reducing the pressure, when instantly all street lights are put out, saving the expense of keeping a man for this purpose. These machines are sold in hundreds of small towns within the adjoining states and the busi-

ness is rapidly increasing. The proprietors of this company patented this invention several years ago.

The church organizations of Schaller are the Catholic, Methodist Episcopal, the Christian, Presbyterian and German Evangelical Lutheran denominations. (See Church chapter for details.)

The lodges here represented are the Masonic and Odd Fellows, the history of which will be found under the head of Lodges of the county.

Schaller was unfortunate in having three large grain elevators burned within five years, the last being destroyed in 1912, causing a loss of more than fifteen thousand dollars, besides six thousand four hundred dollars worth of grain stored therein.

#### BOYER VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

One of the four central townships in Sac county is known as Boyer Valley, deriving its name from the beautiful valley of the famous Boyer river, which courses from north to south through this section of the county, taking its rise in Buena Vista county. It has numerous branches forking both to the east and west of the main stream. Boyer Valley is a civil subdivision of the county and comprises all of congressional township 88, range 37, west of the meridian line. The Chicago & Northwestern railway passes through sections 5, 4, 10, 11 and 12, en route from the towns of Schaller and Early, the latter place being within Boyer Valley township and the former in Eureka township. At first what is now styled Cook township was also included in Boyer Valley. Boyer Valley township was organized in 1871. Among the pioneer settlers of the township were the families of J. E. Sanburn, William Cory, Charles Prentice, James Shelmerdine, Samuel Prentice, Elias M. Powers, Dr. Warren A. Mason, H. A. Wilson, Joseph Dick, Messrs. Hiram Sweet and Hayes. In about 1876 Cook township was set off and constituted a separate township in the county. The earliest school house within Boyer Valley township was the old Prentice school, built very early, and was followed by the new building in 1872. It is believed that the first person to settle in Boyer Valley township was William Cory, in 1868, as a homesteader. The second settler was James Shelmerdine, who effected his settlement the same year, but a little later in the season. Charles Prentice was probably the third man to claim land in the township.

This is an excellent part of Sac county, and today is well settled, well cultivated and possesses hundreds of beautiful and valuable farm homes.

Nature has done much for this portion of the county and man has aided the work of nature to a goodly degree, until here one finds numerous prosperous homes, with schools and churches on almost every hand. The County Home, where the county's unfortunate poor are cared for, is within this township, on section 14. An account of this is found in the chapter on County Government. In 1905 the state census report for Iowa gave Boyer Valley township a population of six hundred and eighty, exclusive of the town of Early, and the town was given at five hundred and fifty-three, making a total of one thousand two hundred and thirty-three. Of this number only one hundred and twenty-three were of foreign birth.

The federal census in 1910 gave it as one thousand one hundred and seventy-three, including Early, with a single population of five hundred.

#### TOWN OF EARLY.

Early is the only town within Boyer Valley township. It is situated in sections 3, 4 and 9 in the northern part of the township. It is a very enterprising station point on the Chicago & Northwestern railway, nine miles from the county seat and about the same southeast from Schaller. It was platted by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company, October 4, 1882. Its present population is not far from six hundred. It has a Catholic, Methodist Episcopal and a Presbyterian church (see Church chapter). Its secret societies are the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias. It has electric lights, a fine water works system, owned by the municipality; a live local newspaper, the *News*, and two banking institutions.

The town was incorporated in November, 1900; its mayors have included the first elected magistrate of the little municipality, E. A. North, succeeded by J. F. DeGarmore, E. A. North and the present mayor, J. W. Hartsell. The present (1914) officers are: Mayor, J. W. Hartsell; recorder, C. F. Jackson; treasurer, W. W. Little; marshal, George Bedell; councilmen, F. J. Green, D. D. Carlton, George W. Wadsley, Fred Dahm and J. B. Prentice.

A system of water works was installed in 1895 under bonds issued for three thousand dollars, and in the autumn of 1913 the first electric lights were turned on, to the entire satisfaction of all citizens, who had been displeased with the former coal gas plant and its poor lighting system. The electric plant, also owned by the town of Early, is run in connection with the water plant, which is also among the appreciated things of modern Early, as it





WALL LAKE VIEWS





derives its supply of the purest water from deep wells, giving forth a never-failing supply. A volunteer fire company is always on hand when a fire occurs, and does excellent service. Another feature of the town is its neat public park, a block in extent, which was donated to the public for perpetual park purposes by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company when they platted the town. Its trees and other improvements are fully up to the small-town standard. The one thing needed in the place is a new, modern and larger public school building, which question is soon to be agitated and it will certainly be erected ere long. The town is accommodated with two 'phone systems, the J. M. Kelly lines and the Farmer's Telephone Company.

The postoffice dates back to the year the town was platted and has had postmasters as follows, and in the order here given: Eli Haredon, who kept the office in Hunt's drug store; Joseph Cory, under President Cleveland's administration; W. H. Allen, under President Harrison's administration; Joseph Cory, again under Cleveland's second term; A. P. Mennis, who held the position eleven years and was succeeded in 1908 by the present incumbent, Ed. Foster, who was commissioned by President Roosevelt. It is a third class postoffice, with three free rural delivery routes, making a total of seventy-eight miles traversed each day by the three carriers, the longest route being a little less than twenty-seven miles. The savings deposits have never quite reached the five-hundred-dollar mark.

#### BUSINESS INTERESTS OF EARLY.

According to the memory of pioneer A. Mason, the first hotel in Early was known as the "Engler House," built and conducted by John Engler. The same hotel still serves the public and is known as the Early House.

The pioneer lumber dealer was the manager for the Green Bay Lumber Company, which concern still has a large yard in the place.

Morenis Brothers bought the first grain here and built an elevator for the handling of the same.

The first general store was that of Thurman & Barrett, which in more recent years was known as the firm of Barrett & Carlton.

The first hardware store was that conducted by Roswell Allen.

The pioneer "village blacksmith"—all honor to his memory—was T. Timme.

The first banking was carried on as a sort of "exchange" affair in the first general merchandising store, but the first bank, proper, was known as the

Early State Bank, with S. K. Fuller, president, and A. Mason, vice-president. This was established in 1888.

The first school house was erected in 1883, and the first teacher was Professor Robinson, of Indiana, who taught in the winter of 1883-4 and continued two or three years longer.

In the month of January, 1914, the business of the town was in the hands of the following persons:

Auctioneer—F. J. Green.

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Agricultural Implements—George W. Wadsley, G. G. Perrott.

Banks—State Bank of Early and the Citizens State Bank.

Barber Shops—George W. Hamm, Blaine Crouch.

Blacksmith Shops—Harry Sampers, G. M. Dunham.

Clothing—Foote & Company.

Cement Blocks—Early Construction and Stone Company and workers in cement, Guy Hair.

Creameries—The Farmer's Co-operative Company.

Dray Lines—Burt Van Vleet, George Bedell.

Drugs—W. P. Hiron.

Dentist—R. D. Kendall, D. D. S.

Elevators—Farmer's Co-operative Company and two line elevators, including the Trans-Mississippi.

Furniture (coupled with Hardware)—J. F. DeGarmo, Hiron & Kirkpatrick.

Grocers—Holdridge Brothers, C. D. Hay and C. Sonneborn.

Garages—Early Auto Company and G. G. Perrott.

Hardwares—Same as furniture dealers.

Harness Shops—W. H. Terrill.

Hotel—"Early House," R. J. Beadle, proprietor.

Jeweler—Ed Welling.

Lumber—Green Bay Lumber Company, A. S. Evans, who also carries builders' hardware.

Livery—William Weaver.

Millinery—Lashier & Co.

Meat Market—Jackson Brothers.

Newspaper—The *News*, J. C. Blair, proprietor.

Northwestern Depot Agent—J. L. Dick.

Opera House—Early Opera House (new) and Struchen & Rowe, the old hall.

Produce—J. L. Dunham.

Pool Hall—George Fouchs.

Restaurants—L. M. Engler, C. M. Anthony.

Real Estate Dealers—Lashier & McQuick.

Physicians—Drs. J. W. Graham, J. C. Iwersen.

Stock Dealers—W. Watts, B. F. Evans.

Shoe Dealer—Joseph Dick.

Veterinary Surgeons—R. L. McNalley.

Wagon Repairs—Harry Sampers.

Five, Ten and Twenty-five Cent Store—William Sampson.

#### LEVEY TOWNSHIP.

Levey township comprises all of congressional township 86, range 37 west. It is six miles square and situated on the south line of Sac county, with Viola township at its east, Clinton at the north and Wheeler, the extreme southwestern township in the county, on its west. Its towns are a part of Wall Lake, Herring and the hamlet station on the Illinois Central lines known as McCloy. The Boyer river flows through this township on its meandering course to the Missouri river, emptying into that stream at Council Bluffs, where it is considerable of a stream. It has numerous small branches or tributaries flowing in from the fertile lands that make up Levey township. The Mondamin and Onawa branches of the great Northwestern system of railroad runs through various portions of this township. Also the more recently constructed railroad, the Illinois Central, parallels the Northwestern line from Wall Lake station southwest until they both take their exit from the county on down the famous Boyer Valley.

Levey was created into a separate township in 1871 and in 1880 it had a population of six hundred and twenty-five, including its villages.

Its early settlers were nestled in and around the present town of Wall Lake, and some in the southern portion, along the Crawford county line. Its schools, churches and lodges are all mentioned in separate chapters in this volume, hence will not be named in this connection. The population of the township, according to the last United States census report, is one thousand and sixty four, including that part of Wall Lake within the township, which town had, then, five hundred and sixty-one.

The village of Herring, on sections 28 and 29, is a mere station point and small trading place on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, a mile and a half from the south line of the township.

Concerning the pioneers who effected the first settlement here, let it be said that they come in about the following order: Charles Levey, 1869; Richard Dean, 1869; Frank W. Weed, March 29, 1870. George Maynard and F. H. Weed came early, but only remained one year. George A. Weed came in on August 20, 1870; Samuel Adams, 1871; A. Marks, 1871; W. J. Muxen, 1871. The township was constituted in 1871, but not really organized until 1873 on account of there not being a sufficient number in the territory before then to hold the offices. Dr. Stevens was a settler of 1871. F. W. Weed was the first township assessor. The first school was taught in what is now No. 8, but then No. 1, in 1873, by Fannie Philbrick.

#### TOWN OF WALL LAKE.

Wall Lake, in Levey and Viola townships, was platted by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company (really the Northwestern Railroad Company) in 1877. It is situated three miles to the south of the famous Wall lake, so well known as a resort in the great Maple Valley region. Its population in January, 1914, was, by actual count, eight hundred and ten, although it was through error only given about six hundred in the last United States census. This error came about from the fact that the census taker only credited the town with what population were living in Viola township, as belonging in the corporation, and the remainder were counted in with the population of Levey township.

The first lot was sold in this town to D. Wayne, of Carroll, for warehouse purposes. The first load of wheat sold was by Mr. North, September 10, 1877, and it brought seventy cents per bushel. The first car load of wheat was shipped out by Wayne & Company. The first lumber yard was put in operation by Wilcox Brothers, August 27, 1877. The first general merchandise store was established by G. M. Parker in August, 1877. The first child was born to Mrs. O. A. Olson. The first death was in the family of C. E. Wentworth. On April 21, 1878, a destructive tornado passed over this portion of the county, destroying much property, generally estimated at thirty thousand dollars worth, and eight persons were injured. Telephone communication was first installed in Wall Lake February 11, 1878, between J. C. Fletcher and C. E. Wentworth, each having a 'phone in their place of business. It was constructed by Ehlers & Wentworth and was probably the vibratory system, as electric 'phones in practical form did not come till a year or two later.

It may be stated that the first building in the town was commenced in

April, 1877, for a saloon. The material was hauled from Fort Dodge and Storm Lake. Mr. Donaldson was the man who engaged in this business, this being five years before the state had its prohibition fight, since which date saloons have not been very popular or nearly as numerous. The next actual settler in Wall Lake was O. Anderson. The shoe store of P. A. Elpstrand was opened July 7, 1877. The first blacksmith was F. Rohm, who came in from Alta. The first religious services were conducted at the home of Mr. Palmer, Sunday, August 15, 1877, by Rev. W. P. Griffin. Work on the depot building commenced July 20, 1877, and was completed August 15th, that year.

Having now shown the beginnings of things in general, the author deems it sufficient to give the present business and social factors of Wall Lake, showing in whose hands the business of the place was in January, 1914:

Attorney—J. S. Whitney.

Agricultural Implements—Victor Staab.

Blacksmith Shops—F. E. Johnston, Hinds & Wright.

Barber Shops—William Morrison, R. Lancaster.

Banks—German State and Wall Lake Savings Bank.

Creamery—C. W. Davis.

Clothing Store—J. O. Benson.

Cement Works—Frank Becker.

Drugs—Bowman Drug Company, C. C. Epperly.

Dray Line—Ed. Palmer.

Dentist—Roy McCulla, J. L. Morris.

Furniture—W. H. Menold.

Feed Barn—Albert Johnson.

General Merchandise—Okerstroem & Fishback, F. H. Brown, J. H.

Sievert.

Grain Dealers—William Claussen.

Garage—Hopkins Auto Company, Wall Lake Auto Company.

Harness Shop—J. H. Davison.

Hardware—Johnson & Swanson, Farmer's Lumber Company.

Hotel—The Brunton.

Jewelry—H. Limke.

Lumber Yards—Wall Lake Lumber Company, Farmers' Lumber Company.

Livery—Frank Dean.

Meat Market—D. Schneidecker.

Millinery—Mrs. D. A. Robinson.

Mills (Grist)—J. McGloin.

Newspaper—*The Wall Lake Blade*, by W. O. Howard.

Opera House—Wall Lake Opera House Company.

Produce Companies—Swift & Company, C. H. Young.

Photo Gallery—Melvin Charles.

Pool Halls—Robert Jolly, W. H. Persons.

Physicians—Drs. A. S. Hayden, L. H. Jones.

Restaurants—Christensen Sisters, Hoff & Son, D. W. Young, and the Depot Lunch Rooms.

Real Estate—McClurg & Brunton.

Stock Buyers—Charles Godenow.

Wagon Repairs—Hinds & Wright.

The town supports a brass band of twenty-five pieces, led by C. E. Epperly. There is an effective Commercial Club here, with C. R. Yeager as its present secretary.

The churches of Wall Lake—the Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and German Lutheran—are all treated at length in the Church chapter.

The lodges include the Masonic and Odd Fellows orders, both mentioned in the Lodge chapter in this volume.

Wall Lake was incorporated in March, 1881. The following were the first town officials elected: A. D. Herrig, mayor; W. L. Ehlers, recorder; D. M. Bingman, George Burgess, F. E. Cheeney, M. Mohr, H. J. Simpson, T. E. Wilcox, first councilmen or trustees. The following is a list of all mayors serving in Wall Lake to date: A. D. Herrig, 1881; H. B. Allen, 1883; Robert Pattison, to 1889; R. M. Hunter, 1889; C. C. Watson, 1891; Hiram Adams, 1893; Erick Schmidt, 1895; Hiram Adams, 1897; H. B. Allen, 1899; A. B. Barclay, 1901; George D. Newby, 1903; John McGloin, 1906, who served until August, 1913, when he resigned. John Johnson was appointed to fill the vacancy and is still serving. The present town officials are: Mayor, John A. Johnson; clerk, J. S. Whitney; treasurer, Charles M. Herrig; marshal, A. E. Johnston; council, Dr. A. S. Hayden, Gus Moore, D. D. Scheiddiker, Walter Ward and William Claussen. A fine, effective system of water works was installed in this town about 1896. At first it was jointly owned by the town and by private subscribers, but later the whole plant, now valued at thirty thousand dollars, was turned over to the town. The water is obtained from a well, just to the east of the town and on the eastern slope of the great watershed divide of Iowa, where the waters flow



towards the Mississippi and the Missouri. This water is said to be as pure as any in the state. A high tower and water tank, constructed of steel, affords about sixty pounds pressure per square inch. Since the establishment of these improvements the town has had but one disastrous fire, that which burned the Brown store and the livery barn about 1898. The same caught from an overheated hot-air furnace in the basement of Brown's store. A well trained volunteer fire company makes property comparatively safe. Uniforms were once purchased, costing seven hundred dollars. No town in western Iowa has a more effective fire fighting company than Wall Lake. It dates its history back to 1878.

The municipality also owns the gasoline gas lighting plant and, besides furnishing the streets with ample lights, also sells to consumers. This improvement was installed about 1900.

The town owns a shack of a building known as town hall, but is now planning to erect a suitable brick town building which will be an ornament to the town.

Wall Lake has long since been known as the greatest railroad center in this section of the state. The Northwestern system has branches extending to Carroll, Denison, Mondamin, Onawa, Sioux City via Sac City, another to Jewell Junction. The Illinois Central has a station on its Fort Dodge & Omaha line, a mile from Wall Lake town, giving good connections to the Twin Cities and Dubuque, as well as Omaha.

The postmasters who have served at Wall Lake are as follows (office established January 30, 1877): Abner Ferguson, appointed January 30, 1877; Charles L. Sherwood, November 23, 1877; H. B. Allen, May 23, 1881; Robert Pattison, September 23, 1885; C. C. Watson, March 28, 1889; Frank H. Adams, January 28, 1893; Orla H. Menold, April 14, 1893; L. N. Turner, April 17, 1897; J. H. D. Gray, December 12, 1904; Charles B. Dean, April 23, 1906; John McGloin, July 31, 1913.

#### WALL LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Wall Lake township should not be misunderstood as being the civil township in which Wall Lake town is situated, but rather as the one in which Lake View, another town, is located. A greater portion of the beautiful water sheet, Wall Lake, is within Wall Lake township, while a small part is in the township south, Viola. Wall Lake township is congressional township No. 37, range 36 west. It is second from the east and second from the

south line of Sac county. It was organized in 1871 and in 1880 had a population of only 462. In 1910 it had 1,209 with Lake View.

The Coon river touches sections 1, 12 and 13 of this township, and is increased by the waters of Indian creek which flow in a semi-circular direction through the central portion of the territory.

The township has much excellent land and no small amount of lower, swampy land which, under the touch of modern methods of drainage, is fast becoming a garden spot.

The Chicago & Northwestern railroad runs through the western central part of the township, from Lake View to Sac City.

Some of the early settlements in the county were effected here, but not nearly so early as in Sac and Jackson. The village history of Lake View gives much concerning the first to effect settlement. Other general chapters will treat on the schools, lodges and churches of Wall Lake township, hence will be omitted in this connection.

#### WALL LAKE.

What is known as Wall lake (originally called on the early maps "Walled lake") was written up by Hon. H. C. Rippey, of Jefferson, Iowa, in the early seventies in language, largely of imagination, that sounds odd to the reader of today, who is convinced that the "wall" is nothing other than a pile of prairie boulders that have been heaved up by the frosts of many winters, and that there is no evidence, whatsoever, that man's hand had anything to do with the line of stones that may resemble a laid-up wall. The item referred to is as follows:

"At the north end of the lake there commences a beautiful gravel bank, gradually sloping into the water and continues around on the north side for about a fourth of a mile. The wall then commences, the bank being steep and averages from three to six feet in height. The lake gets wider, and as it widens the wall gets very thick, containing great boulders. One and a fourth miles from the northeast end of the lake there is a levee from two to five feet high, across low land, resembling, very much, the levees of the lower Mississippi river country, with the exception that next to the water is stone. The wall commences on the east side of the Boyer slough and continues around the south side of the lake to the northeast corner and levees are thrown up at the low places. This levee is so complete that a person may walk entirely around the lake. At several places on the south side, on high



WALL LAKE VIEWS



ground, embankments are thrown up to form breastworks. It is in fact a great curiosity, and the more one looks at it the more is the wonder who did it. How came these great stones, two or more tons in weight, on the banks, in many places lying on top of smaller ones."

The reader should understand that modern writers and sane thinkers know that such a description is a mere fancy of some writer who wanted to believe, and perhaps thought, he had struck a natural curiosity.

#### LAKE VIEW—A REMINISCENCE.

The following reminiscence was written by Platt Armstrong, one of the pioneers and founders of the town of Lake View, this county: "In 1875 I came from Lost Nation, Clinton county, Iowa, to Sac county and bought section 13, Clinton township. I sent my eldest son, Alden, and Oren Haskins, with teams and breaking plows, to break up the land. They broke out about a hundred and sixty acres. That autumn I helped the improvements along by shipping one load of lumber to Vail, it being the nearest railroad station. My son started to haul it. The first load he left in a slough six miles from home. The next load he was obliged to sleep with out on the prairie eight miles from home under his wagon, it taking him four days to get the first two loads of lumber, after which he succeeded in making a load each day. Then there was not a road or any bridges within the twenty-mile journey. I built a house and a stable that fall, and my son got married and the following spring another one of my sons came on and helped put in a crop, which in August was destroyed by grasshoppers; the corn and oats were all gone, but some wheat was left. That season the mosquito and green-headed horse flies were extremely thick in this part of the country and really made life a burden to both man and beast. These pests, together with the grasshoppers, caused us to be much discouraged with our newly located home. I then came to the conclusion that this county was not a suitable place in which to settle my sons in permanent homes, which I had intended doing for them. Hence, I started south, homeseeking, and went to Texas and rode some four hundred miles on horseback, going in west of Fort Worth, but saw nothing that enticed me to locate there. I then returned to Clinton county and brooded over my misfortunes and unlucky selection of lands here, seeing nothing cheering ahead of me for my family. In February, the following season, one morning I awoke and upon looking over the situation I was possessed of an inspiration, which was to rent my farm and move my

family to Sac county. By noon that day, I had my land rented and two weeks later I had moved here bag and baggage. \* \* \*

"February 22, 1888, I arrived at Wall Lake again, and when settled down I found that I had fourteen head of horses and four boys large enough to handle a team, so we went to tearing up the prairie sod and in 1890 we raised three thousand bushels of wheat and five thousand bushels of corn, besides oats and barley. I then left this place and bought a quarter section of land in the west part of the present town of Lake View and commenced to plan for a railroad station, but found that the Northwestern Railroad Company was prohibited from platting another town, as parties in Sac City and Wall Lake had started the first railroad and did the grading, with the understanding that there was not to be a station between these two points. One day I met an officer of the Northwestern road and asked him about it and he said that while this was true, that it did not prevent anyone else from platting a station and putting in a side-track. He said if I would go ahead and build a small station house and do the grading for a short side-track, that the company would recognize it as a station. I knew nothing about platting a town, but I took James Fletcher into my confidence. I also found that I could get the eighty acres of land that the railroad ran through for twenty dollars per acre, but Mr. Fletcher seemed to think he wanted it all, so he purchased the land and proceeded to raise the money to build a depot building and pay for side-track grounds. In this way Lake View had its origin, but it was known then as "Fletcher." November 28, 1887, it was changed to that of Lake View.

"The same fall I built a large barn and finished off one of the stables to live in, while I was building my house. In order to do this I had to put up some stove-pipe in length about thirty feet, and seven joints extended out beyond the building. Being rusted together, the united joints of pipe made a very good lightning conductor, so, thinking to be on the safe side, I would make a connection with the earth, which I did by boring holes at each hind leg of the stove through the barn floor, and then placed wires around the legs and on down to the ground. This was probably an original idea, but I never patented it! However, it worked well, for on one occasion a bad thunder storm came up and lightning struck the stove-pipe and the seven joints outside the building were entirely ruined, but the charge went on direct to the damp earth and harmed nothing else about the place. From this incident originated the great Dodd & Strothers lightning rod.

"In regard to the description of the lake, it should be stated that when

the land was surveyed by the government, they meandered twelve hundred and eighty acres out for the water, which makes it two and a half miles in length from east to west, by about one mile in width in the widest place. There are two islands, one having a hundred and twenty acres, while the other is but a small tract of but a few acres, generally known by hunters as 'Gun-shot Hill.' The fractional parts of forties adjoining the lake are called government lots. Armstrong's Second Addition is government lot No. 5; Hugo Westerman's is lot No. 6 and Denison Beach, a part of which is now a summer resort. Lakewood is Lot No. 7, which is the principal one, having some fifty cottages, a large hotel, a skating rink, bowling alley, a dance hall, toboggan-slide, with many pleasure boats, bath houses, etc. This resort was started by J. H. Graves, and by him conducted a few years; he then sold the farm, the resort and grounds to Mr. Trinkel, for about nineteen dollars per acre. He sold to Hugo Westerman the resort grounds for nine thousand dollars and he, in turn, sold to Chris Larson for twenty thousand dollars and only recently he has sold it for fifty thousand dollars to A. B. Weiland and Brothers, who took possession last spring (1913) and they have since conducted it.

"John Provost has also been selling lots and building cottages on the larger of the two islands for a number of years. About twenty of these buildings are now occupied during the summer and autumn months. Louis Larson, as he is known, has two gasoline boats for carrying passengers, and there are also a half dozen smaller craft, with a small sail boat line, all of which afford great pleasure to the summer visitors."

#### BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The first settlement was made here by Robert Throssel and son in the spring of 1867. They were followed by Joseph Parkinson, Noah Borah, William Johnston, Thomas Waddicor and George Trainer, who settled at the east and south of the lake. In 1869 came in W. A. Robinson, locating on a farm three miles from the present town site. The town was laid out by J. C. Fletcher in 1880. The town was named for him, but later changed to Lake View. The first house on the town site was removed from Wall Lake by W. H. Robinson, in the autumn of 1880. J. C. Fletcher and Harry Severs opened the first store at Fletcher. Then followed C. E. Gard and A. J. Thompson. The first elevator was erected by W. H. Robinson in 1881. The first hardware store was opened by J. P. Therkelson in 1881. The railroad (the Northwestern) was completed to this point in the fall of 1880.



The first hotel, the Lake House, was opened by W. H. Robinson in 1880. H. L. Briggs started the first lumber yard here. The first postmaster and those who succeeded him to date were W. H. Robinson, in December, 1880; William H. Mong, September 3, 1886 (name changed to Lake View November 28, 1887); William H. Mong, November 28, 1887; William M. Hamilton, August 8, 1889; William H. Mong, July 19, 1893; F. H. Clark, June 15, 1897, and who is still serving.

The first society to hold religious services was the Baptist denomination, with Rev. W. N. McKendrick as pastor. The first school was held in 1881 with Miss Anna Searle as teacher. There was no school building at that date, but private rooms were secured.

The business interests in Lake View in the month of January, 1914, were as follows:

General Stores—J. P. Wells, People's Store and the Miesel store.

Lumber—Lake View Lumber Company.

Blacksmithing—Hans Olson.

Barbers—Ellis Bros. and E. Mason.

Drugs—Mr. Duerr.

Photographer—E. L. Maxwell.

Newspaper—The *Resort*, by Edwin McSheehy.

Dray Line—F. N. Dunham.

Livery—Charles Mohn.

Grain and Seeds—Updike Grain Company.

Dentist—Molsberry Bros.

Physicians and Surgeons—Dr. E. E. Speaker.

Painter—Milton Olson.

Lake View Creamery.

Tailor and Cleaner—J. B. Lohr.

Automobile garages—Armstrong & Dean and Spencer & Son, and the Lake View Auto Company.

The population is about seven hundred. The school house consists of an eight-room, well equipped structure. The town is supplied with an excellent water works system and has a high steel tower and tank. There are numerous large ice houses here where immense amounts of the finest lake ice in the state are stored and shipped far and near. In the season of 1910, five hundred cars were shipped. Much is used by the railroad company for drinking and refrigerating purposes along the extensive system. At one time large quantities of gravel and sand were removed from the earth at this

point by steam shovels and the road bed of the railroad far to the west was made first class by its use, but the holes left make an unsightly place today, in the very heart of the town.

The town of Fletcher was incorporated in September, 1887, and soon changed to the name of Lake View. At the election of that year to decide the matter of incorporation, there were forty votes cast for incorporation and none against it. Among the earlier mayors may be recalled the names of Messrs. L. F. Davis; R. Hiersche, 1890; R. M. Paine, 1891; James Park, 1892; E. C. F. Mohr, 1893; Platt Armstrong, 1894. Since its incorporation the place has had, for the most part, a good municipal government and today the improvements are in keeping with the towns of western Iowa in general.

#### SAC TOWNSHIP.

Sac is the extreme southeastern subdivision of Sac county and comprises all of congressional township 36, range 35 west. Calhoun county lies at the east, Coon Valley township to the north, Viola township to the west and Carroll county at the south. It was organized as one of the original townships in the county in 1856 and in 1880 it had been cut down in extent of its territory very greatly and at that date had only five hundred and eighty-one population. Its present population, according to the United States census returns for 1910, is one thousand one hundred and twenty-five, with Auburn and Grant City, the former having three hundred and ninety-nine and the latter having one hundred and sixty-two.

The early settlers here were nestled in along the timber lands found skirting the Coon river, in the neighborhood of Grant City, which had a settlement and a mill for corn grinding in the fifties, but was not platted until about 1863, and derived its name from that gallant soldier-statesman, U. S. Grant. The Coon makes a sharp horse-shoe curve in the northeastern portion of this township, and Grant City was platted on the north and eastern side of this big bend in the river, which afforded, at an early day, ample water power for good milling facilities. The towns and villages of Sac township are Auburn, Grant City and Ulmer, all of which are mentioned at length further on in this article. The Tama branch of the great Northwestern railroad system runs across Sac township, from east to west, almost directly along the central section line. The newly constructed Omaha and Fort Dodge branch of the Illinois Central railroad traverses the northwest corner of the township, coming in from the north on section 2 and leaving

from section 18. The history of Grant City, Auburn and Ulmer will give the names of many who first settled this part of the county.

#### TOWN OF AUBURN.

Auburn is one of the three towns within Sac township, the others being Grant City, and Ulmer, a station on the Illinois Central railroad. Auburn is situated on sections 23 and 24, of township 86, range 35. It was platted July 31, 1886, by the Western Town Lot and Land Company. It is a station point on the Chicago & Northwestern line, the second station east from Wall Lake, and is on the east line of Sac county. It really caused the town of Grant City, a mile or so to the north and west, to go down. It was incorporated as a town early in its history and has had for its mayors the following gentlemen: W. J. Dixon, G. M. Parker, P. R. Moseley, Otto Behrend, Otto Garnatz, A. Beck, P. J. Barry, and J. Simpson. Its officers in 1914 are: Mayor, J. Simpson; clerk, C. C. Basler; treasurer, Paul Ruckrow; marshal, W. D. Carroll; councilmen, W. H. Lesle, H. F. Garnatz, C. F. Brower, W. E. Comstock, M. Brooks. A private stock company operates, and has since about 1900, a gasoline gas lighting plant here, which provides lights for public and private use, as well as for street lighting purposes.

The present churches of the town are all mentioned in the Church chapter in this volume and consist of the Presbyterian, German Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Latter-Day Saints. The lodges include the Masonic, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the various insurance orders (see Lodge chapter).

The Auburn postoffice is a fourth class office and from it runs out two free rural delivery routes. Its postmasters have been M. Buehre, H. G. F. Muller, E. H. Merrell (who held it eighteen years), E. Reardon, since October, 1913.

This, like all railroad towns of these days, grew rapidly at first. Almost all branches of trade soon sprung up here, taking the trade and general business that had for years gone to Grant City. The business interests in Auburn at this date (January, 1914) are in the hands of the following persons:

Agricultural Implements—E. Reardon.

Banking—Farmers and Merchants.

Barber Shops—C. F. Brower.

Brick and Drain Tile Works—The Straight family.

Blacksmith Shop—William Rettig.

Dray Line—E. Basto.  
Drugs—J. Kessler, C. C. Basler.  
Elevator—Howard & Barry.  
Furniture—T. J. Barry.  
Garage—Grey & Dahlquist.  
General Dealers—F. R. Brennan, Lee Jones.  
Grocery—S. Mott.  
Hotel—The Auburn House, G. H. Bruning.  
Jeweler—S. Mott.  
Lumber—W. T. Joyce Co.  
Livery—M. G. Golden.  
Millinery—Miss Minnie Basler.  
Meats—L. A. Sherman, J. A. Green.  
Newspaper—The *Record*, by E. H. Merrell.  
Public Hall—Over Bank block.  
Physicians—Drs. H. L. Fobes and P. J. Barry.  
Pool Hall—L. Reinhart.  
Restaurants—Amos Rettig.  
Stock Dealers—W. H. Lesle.  
Veterinary Surgeon—A. Beck.  
Variety Store—E. H. Merrell.  
Wagon Repairs—William Rettig.

The chief industry of Auburn, at this date, is the brick and tile works, in which from forty to sixty men find employment the year round, in the manufacture of a very superior article of drain tile and building brick, with building blocks and other articles of the clay product. These works are supplied with the raw material from beds of clay, gravel and sand situated near Grant City, from which the material is taken by conveyor cars on a system of wire cables, for a distance of over a quarter of a mile and running over the Coon river valley and its winding stream. From the south side of the valley it is conveyed in steam cars pulled by a dummy steam engine to the works, proper, in Auburn. In the month of December, 1913, this company, composed of the three Straights, shipped one hundred and thirty-seven car loads of their products to various parts of the country. They are now far behind their orders.

In April, 1889, there was a creamery in operation at Auburn, of a very high type. It was the best constructed one in all western Iowa. In addition to receiving milk for the separators, it also collected cream from the surrounding country in large quantities.

## GRANT CITY.

This is one of the oldest places in the county, but has, by reason of the building of the railroads north and south of it, become a mere hamlet, almost gone into decline. It now has but one store, and that is operated by Mrs. H. F. Schultz. The postoffice was discontinued in December, 1912, and a number of the citizens there get their mail daily over the rural free delivery from Auburn, by having their boxes placed in a long row in front of the old post-office and store building. This town has for its site one of the prettiest in the county, overlooking as it does the picturesque valley of the Coon river, skirted with a fine grove of native timber which naturally attracted the pioneers. The water power at this point was utilized for many years in the way of a saw mill by George Wright, who also had a corn-cracker in connection, until he, in company with O. R. Jones, enlarged the mill and added a grist mill, which produced flour for many of the settlers in Crawford, Sac, Buena Vista, Calhoun and Greene counties. The mill dam was for many years a success and the water power excellent, but finally it gave way and steam power was installed instead. It was operated until about 1905 and then torn down. A part of the machinery found its way to Dakota and the building material was sold at home and converted into other buildings. The original machinery for this mill was brought from Fort Dodge over the trackless prairies and unbridged streams. This mill was originally built in 1856—the first in Sac county.

At one time Grant City was a busy mart, where came many pioneer men to do both milling and trading. There were at one time newspapers, a good hotel, three stores of general merchandise, excellent schools, and the best roller skating rink in the whole Northwest. In 1865 pioneer R. Ellis came there, where he still resides, and says when he came the town had a blacksmith shop, run by William Impson, a hotel, a saw mill and many slab shanties and log cabins scattered here and there over the platting. The town was not incorporated until about 1904. This was brought about by the fact that the school laws of Iowa did not allow better school appropriations in such towns than it did in the common country districts, and the people here in Grant City were proud of their public schools and desired a larger appropriation, so incorporated and hence are independent in school matters.

The churches of today are the Methodist Episcopal, served by the pastor from Lake City; the Seventh-Day Adventists, which at one time was strong but on account of removals has been greatly reduced in its membership.



AN IMPORTANT LOCAL ENTERPRISE



ONE OF SAC COUNTY'S PROSPEROUS INDUSTRIES





They, as well as the Methodists, have a good church building. The old Masonic lodge was removed to the railroad town, Auburn, when that town had become of sufficient size to support such a fraternity. The only order now at Grant City is the insurance order known as the American Yoeman.

Among the old mayors of Grant City may be named R. Ellis, S. H. Bates, William Shannon and George Higgins. The 1914 officers of the incorporation are: Mayor, James Birt; clerk, S. H. Bates; treasurer, N. A. Impson.

Grant City is situated on sections 11 and 14, township 86, range 35. It is in the big bend—the horse-shoe—of the Coon river, and was platted in Civil-war times, and bid fair to become a rival of Sac City.

The old state atlas published by Andrus, in 1874, says of Grant City: "This is a village located on section 14, township 86, range 35, in the southeastern part of Sac county. Its location is on the east bank of the North Raccoon river, in a grove of timber. There is also a good mill power on the river at this point. The village was laid out in 1863. It has a Baptist, Episcopal and Methodist church, several mills, and stores carrying general stocks of goods."

#### TOWN OF ULMER.

This place is situated in section 8, township 86, range 35, on the Illinois Central railroad, from Fort Dodge to Omaha, and was platted November 21, 1900, by Carrie and W. T. Martin. It has made a fine growth in the few years of its existence. The postoffice here is a fourth class office, established in 1901, and has had these postmasters: Thomas W. Martin, from 1901 to 1908; Dr. E. W. Bookhart, 1908 to 1911; C. E. Barnes, present incumbent. The banking interests here are carried on by the Farmers Savings Bank, established in 1911. The only church society of the town is the Presbyterian church. The business of the place in January, 1914, was conducted as follows: Dry goods and groceries, Barnes & Son; hardware and grocery, J. N. Hawks; blacksmithing, Leo Flintje; elevator, Farmers Grain Company, with L. M. Wicher, manager; lumber, by the Joyce Lumber Company, with V. T. Butrick, manager; stock dealers, L. M. Wicher & Company; implement store, Hawks & Webster; pool and lunch room, C. R. Cooley.

#### VIOLA TOWNSHIP.

On the southern line of the county, and second from the eastern line, is the civil township of Viola, bounded on its north by Wall Lake township,

on the east by Sac township, on the south by Carroll county, and on the west by Levey township. It comprises all of congressional township 86, range 36 west, hence is six miles square. The only town within its borders is Carnarvon, in section 22, which is a junction point of the Tama and Carroll branches of the Northwestern system. The Illinois Central line, from Omaha to Fort Dodge, runs through this township, following the central tier of sections from east to west. A small portion of the town of Wall Lake is within Viola township, as well as a small portion of Wall lake itself, the most of this pretty sheet of water, however, being confined to the limits of Wall Lake township. This subdivision of Sac county has its full share of railroads. The Northwestern system has three distinct branches in the township, with stations at Carnarvon and Wall Lake, and an overhead crossing with the Illinois Central and Northwestern on section 15. There are many Germans in Viola township, and, for the most part, they are all prosperous, well educated and industrious farmers. The township has no timber except that planted and cultivated by the pioneers. There are three small creeks within its borders. Some of the land is rather low, but has mostly been reclaimed by ditching and tile drains. Corn is the chief crop.

Most all the first settlers have either removed from the county or died. Some are retired at the county seat and at Wall Lake and Lake View towns. Just what dates and the exact section on which these pioneers settled cannot now be well determined, but from an interview had recently with such men as J. W. Higgins and F. C. Jacobs, it is learned that the first settlement of this township was made by the following persons, with perhaps a few more, who might have been as early, or earlier, than some of these here named. Mr. Higgins came in 1887, but had lived at Wall Lake four years previous to that. He was a soldier in the Civil War, and was from Montgomery county, New York. He has accumulated considerable property, and has recently purchased much more in Clay county, this state. He has been one of the trustees of this township for a number of years. Mr. Jacobs, above mentioned, was born in Germany, but came here when young, and has taught school and been township assessor here a number of terms. He is well informed and is really what may be termed a scientific farmer, making a thorough study of the soils and of every grade of stock he handles. He loves to look in upon nature at every possible window, and glean that which may be of benefit to a progressive agriculturist. He raises thirty per cent. more per acre than his common farmer neighbors, all on account of his studying the conditions of

soil and climate. He came in about twenty years ago and has seen great changes since engaging in farm life here.

When pioneer Higgins came to the township he found here such men as Garrett Fischer, August Hanke, Patrick Quinn, Patrick Halpin, Robert Westcott, Joseph Parkinson, of section 2, who was among the very first. Also there were Henry Peters, John Spurrell, an Englishman, who still resides in the county, and has a son who is taking much care to study well the country in which he lives. This family located on section 6. John Spurrell was a trustee of Viola township for twenty-five years. Another pioneer was an old Mr. Hinken, and others were Leo Fix, Charles Frank, John Goeman, all very early, probably in the early seventies. Leander McCrea located where now stands the village of Carnarvon, and remained there until 1885; Charles Teeple, now deceased, was two miles north and a half mile to the east of Carnarvon. Early in the eighties came in Herman and Frederick Voss, brothers. They were among the first to make permanent improvements, a mile or so east of Carnarvon, where they had three hundred and twenty acres of land. Both are long since deceased. Peter Rossman also had a half section on the south line of the township. He is deceased. "Tip" Dewey, now of Wall Lake town, owned a half section in the northwestern part of the township, and still owns the land. Michael Martin, deceased, settled very early in the northwestern part. Thomas Waddicor came in among the earliest settlers, in the seventies, and bought land in the north half of the township; he was a soldier in the Two Hundred and Second New York Regiment, and he died about 1908; his son, James Waddicor, now owns the old homestead farm, but resides in Schaller. Moses Lacy was here before 1886 in the northeast quarter of the township, but he now resides near Ames, Iowa. Another was George Van Dresser, who settled in the township at an early date on section 1; he went to Missouri about 1890. Jonas Walrod, in the northwestern part of this township, improved one of the early farms and later died and the land is now in the hands of strangers to the family. His son is a veterinary surgeon in Carnarvon at this date. Brunas Swartscup located in the south part of the township, as did his brother. John Preffer settled about the same time in the western portion, on section 7, where he lived until a few years ago, went South, returned and finally died. Theodore Kliskie arrived in the township about 1875, locating near Wall Lake. Henry Hoft came in and purchased land in the southwest portion. He now lives at Wall Lake; he was a soldier with one of the Iowa regiments. His son now resides on the old Viola township homestead.

Before 1886 came Jacob Ackerman, who located in the southeastern part of the township. The large Irish family of McCormicks settled in this township among the pioneers of early date; sons of this family were Thomas, Peter and John. A. M. Robison, a Massachusetts Yankee, settled in the west half of the township early in the eighties. David Low settled in the southwestern portion, and now resides at Wall Lake, but still owns his land in Viola. Ellis Barthema was in the north part of the township before Mr. Higgins' arrival in 1887. He went to Texas, lost his property, including his excellent two hundred and forty-acre tract in this township. After this the settlement was too rapid to trace out the comings and goings.

Viola township was organized as a separate township in 1875, and derived its name from a town by that name in Illinois. Its present trustees are J. W. Higgins, Michael Rising and Ernest Walrod; its assessor is Louis Wilcox. Its population in 1910 was nine hundred and twenty-nine.

#### VILLAGE OF CARNARVON.

This, the only distinct platted village in Viola township, was laid out by George W. Pitcher, in section 22, township 86, range 36, on October 24, 1881. Its present population is about one hundred and fifty. It is a junction point of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, where the Carroll branch leaves the Tama branch, and is something over four miles south and east from the town of Wall Lake. The first attempt at business here was the year the platting was effected, and it was a general merchandise store opened by Fishback & Pitcher, later owned solely by Mr. Pitcher, who also bought grain and had the first shipping facilities. In scanning the newspaper files the author finds that in December, 1888, the *Sac Sun* said of Carnarvon: "The new town in Viola township, Carnarvon, is getting to be quite a berg. A good number of buildings are already up and enclosed and still more will be completed the coming winter. Mr. Pitcher, the leading man of the place, is using every effort to build up and make it a good town."

The postmasters of Carnarvon have been in the following order: Robert Westgarth, Louis Hunefeld, J. J. Fishback, Harvey Daily, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Seaman, who, between them, have had the office for the last ten years.

The business interests of Carnarvon, in the spring of 1914, were in the hands of the following persons:

General Dealers—Benson & Company.

Hardware and Lumber—Farmers' Lumber Company, of Fort Dodge.

Elevator and Live Stock—A. J. Graham.  
Garage—The Parson Auto Company.  
Hotel—G. M. Seaman.  
Blacksmithing—Joseph Reutter.  
Cream Station—W. A. Seaman.  
Veterinary Surgeon—Doctor Walrod.  
Barber—A. E. Mason.  
Pool Hall—A. E. Mason.

## JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Jackson is the township in which Sac City, the county seat, is situated, and comprises congressional township 88, range 36 west, and is bounded on the north by Douglas and Delaware townships, on the east by Cedar township, on the south by Wall Lake township and on the west by Boyer Valley township. It was in and near here that the first pioneer settlement was effected in the early fifties, and, having been mentioned at length in the general chapter on early settlement, need not here be enlarged upon. It was here that Judge Eugene Criss located and ran the old stage station and a general store for the accommodation of a wide scope of country. He later constructed a saw and grist mill. The Corys, the Tiberghiens, the Watts and Platts all found homes in the new country. It was in 1854, 1855 and 1856 when they arrived.

Indian creek and the Coon river are the principal streams flowing through this township. Along its beautiful groves were made the first cabin homes in the county. Over this picturesque section had roamed the savage Sioux, the Sac and Fox tribes, and here had they been at war one with another. Here camped many an immigrant on his way to this and other western Iowa counties. The value of the prairie land was not really known to the first settlers here, and all huddled themselves along the timber skirt-ing the Coon river, little dreaming that the uplands and prairies were destined to outstrip the timbered sections of the county. Wild game was plentiful in this part of the county and the river afforded an endless amount of excellent fish. Fifty years have made a wonderful transformation in this country, and especially in Jackson township, with Sac City in its midst, a thriving city, with all modern improvements and a hum and stir of genuine industry.

Jackson township was created as one of the first civil townships in

Sac county, the date being 1856. In 1880 its population, including Sac City, was about one thousand sixty-six souls. The 1910 census reports gave the township five hundred and eighty-four, exclusive of Sac City and two thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, including the city. The railroads have greatly aided in the development of Sac county, including this special township. The Chicago & Northwestern and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroads have lines running through the township from all points of the compass, concentrating at Sac City.

The history of this township is almost identical with that of Sac City, hence the reader is referred to the facts concerning the founding and present standing of the county seat town.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### SAC CITY.

Sac City possesses one of the choicest natural city sites in all western Iowa; in fact, outside of perhaps Iowa Falls, Charles City and a few others, there are, in all Iowa, none with more beautiful natural surroundings than Sac City, on the Coon river.

The city is located on sections 23 and 24, of township 88, range 36 west. It was platted in July, 1855, the surveying being executed by he who in later years was so well known as Hon. John F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge. The town plat or map in the county records was executed by W. H. Fegely, July 3, 1855. The town site proprietors were Judge Eugene Criss, W. S. Wagoner, Henry A. Evans and Joseph Gammon. Hence it will be seen that the city is now almost fifty-nine years old. It is between five and six miles northeast of the center of the county. The business section is for the most part located along the river, while the residence portion is chiefly on higher ground. The altitude above sea level is one thousand two hundred and eighty feet. The Coon river encircles the town most of the way round. Native forest trees are scattered here and there over the entire town site. The second-growth oak trees are a beauty in summer and winter, and make the building spots ideal in character—a joy forever, because of their rare beauty and shade.

Book "A" of deeds in Sac county, page 1, has the following: "The lots in Sac City are sixty feet wide and the alleys are twenty feet wide. Platting was executed by W. H. Fagely July 3, 1855. Its situation is beautiful. The North fork of Raccoon river nearly surrounds the town. Beautiful prairie lands of the richest quality of soil border it; a heavy growth of excellent timber lies adjacent; springs of the clearest, coolest water abound, breaking out along the banks of the river. The stage road from Fort Dodge to Sergeant's Bluff runs through the town, on Main street. The distance to Fort Dodge is forty-three miles, nearly one-half of the way to Sergeant's Bluff. Stones are planted on each street as indicated by the red crosses in every street. The plat was drawn and surveyed by John F. Duncombe,



and the proprietor's names are Eugene Criss, W. S. Wagoner, Henry A. Evans and Joseph Gammon."

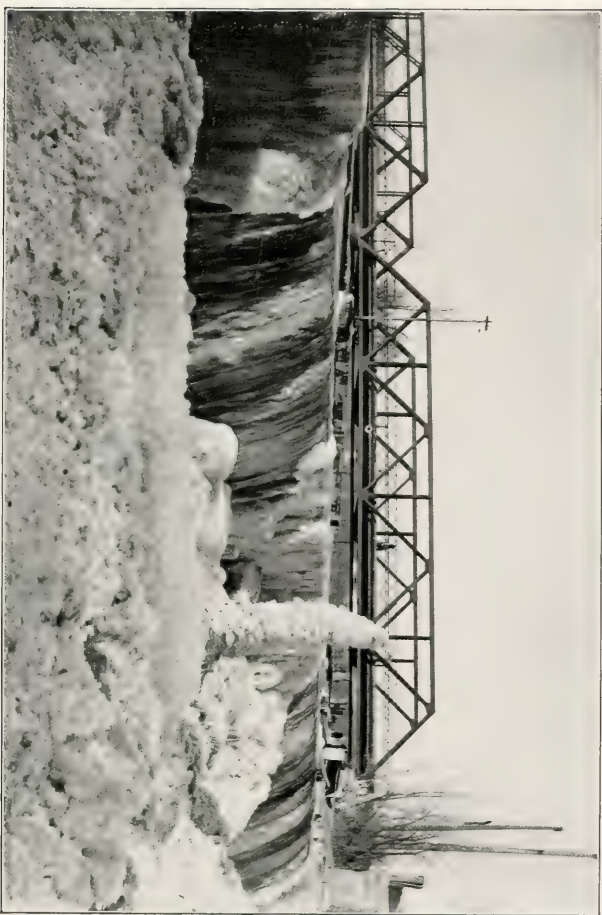
The population of Sac City, at various dates, has been as follows: In 1880 it had 505 inhabitants; in 1885 it had 1,200; in 1890 it had 1,249; in 1895 it had 1,601; in 1900 it had 2,079; in 1905 it had 2,120, and in 1910 the United States census gave it as 2,201, but it is considerable in advance of that today.

"THE FATHER OF SAC CITY."

This term was for years applied to Hon. Eugene Criss, the real founder of the town, and the *Sioux City Journal*, in 1903, took occasion to notice Judge Criss' death in the following language, and it may well be incorporated in the annals of this county, both of these distinguished pioneers now being deceased:

"The death of Judge Eugene Criss at Sac City, in his eighty-first year, marks the passing of one of northwestern Iowa's real pioneers. He settled on the present site of Sac City in 1855 and for many years pursued the life of a frontiersman, trading with the Indians, having Keokuk for his trading place. His house was the stopping place of travelers between Sioux City and Fort Dodge. He kept a country store, was county judge, supervisor, mayor of his town and was a representative in the Iowa Legislature when Sac, Ida, Woodbury and Plymouth counties were all in one district. He was a sturdy character, held in high esteem and implicitly trusted during the formative days of Sac county. All northwestern Iowa was in one neighborhood and everybody knew Judge Criss. Last year, in July, three thousand people gathered at his home and celebrated his eightieth anniversary, thereby giving evidence of the confidence, love and esteem in which he was held."

During the early months of 1855 there might have been seen a covered wagon coming over the Mississippi river from the Wisconsin shore, and in that conveyance was Eugene Criss, who was in search of a water-power and desired to make settlement in a new and untried country. He crossed the great rivers of Iowa—the Cedar, Iowa, Des Moines and Boone—and finally landed on the banks of the North Raccoon river, in Sac county, where he proceeded to erect the first log house in what is now Sac City, and established himself in the hotel business and at the same time kept a stage station and general store for the accommodation of the surrounding settlers in this section of Iowa. This log house was located at the top of the hill, near where



OLD MILL DAM, SAC CITY



the east bridge now spans the Coon river, and directly across Main street from the present residence of his widow, now aged about ninety-one years.

The younger generation who have grown up here can scarce realize that so prosperous a city, with its wide, well-kept streets, its beautiful buildings, its brilliant electric lights, its many sightly homes, its flourishing business district, was all accomplished within the memory of not a few still living here, who saw the first beginnings of the sprightly little city. And, too, that less than sixty years ago here roamed the wild beasts of the field and the no less savage red man. In these seemingly short years has the city sprung up and passed through its struggles as a pioneer village, been incorporated and now is known far and near for its enterprise and good moral character as a municipality.

#### BUSINESS INTERESTS.

After Judge Criss opened his little general merchandise store on the south side of East Main street, the next to embark in trade was William Todd, who added a general store, suitable to the wants of the people at that time. This was a hewn-log house located on the southwest corner of the block facing the court house square on the east.

Coming on down to 1873, the business factors of the town were outlined in the *Sun*, the following cards, etc., appearing in the files of that paper in that year: A. Mitchell, agent for the Illinois Central, at Newell, Iowa; Levi Davis, real estate, taxpayer and full set of Sac county abstracts; Ed. R. Duffie, attorney at law, Sac City; C. D. Goldsmith, attorney, at Newell, Buena Vista county (now Judge Goldsmith, of Sac City); William H. Hobbs, Sac City, notary public, real estate and taxpayer; D. Carr Early, real estate and broker, Sac City; National Life Insurance Company, the only insurance company in the United States chartered by act of Congress, J. N. Miller, local agent, Sac City; F. Cobb and J. E. Armstrong, veterinary surgeons, Sac City; Dr. J. M. Patty, homeopathic physician, will be at Sac City every first and fifteenth of each month, to treat chronic cases. Office is, when at home, Carroll, Iowa; A. T. Brenton, M. D., Sac City; J. H. Gould, sign, house and general painter, Sac City; hotel, Lamoreaux House. W. V. Lamoreaux, proprietor, Sac City. Here one finds good stabling attached. Hacks run to the north daily and for the south each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Stevens House, Newell, Iowa, C. N. Stever, proprietor. Northwestern Drug Company, E. W. Foy, Newell, Iowa, supplies for physicians and surgeons, in Buena Vista, Calhoun, Clay, Sac and ad-

joining counties—orders promptly filled. Will Allen carried an advertisement for his cheap cash store and names two thousand dollars worth of men's and boys' clothing; also sugar at from six, seven and eight pounds per dollar. A. Platt & Co. (A. Platt and J. L. Criss), general dealers, Sac City, Iowa.

In the matter of the milling interest it may be well to quote the *Sun* of its issue in April, 1875: "We went over Monday to look through Judge Criss's flouring mill. It was in full blast, with plenty of custom work, rushing along at a rapid rate. The Judge has five thousand bushels of his own wheat to make into flour as soon as possible. Parties are coming to this mill from a long distance, and the prospect is good for a big milling season."

The subjoined item from the *Sac Sun* in 1895, gives interesting outline history of the various milling changes in Sac City: "J. E. Robbins' pioneer mills burned November, 1895; it was a fine new 'roller' system. Fifteen thousand bushels of prime milling wheat was burned, with the newly furnished milling plant. The unfortunate history of milling here is about as follows: First a saw mill in 1866, by pioneer Eugene Criss, who, in 1871, established a flouring mill, and for a time Asa Platt was connected with this mill, after which came J. L. Comstock, A. D. Peck, Rev. Robert Smylie and J. H. Baxter in 1882. Criss made money for a number of years, but the property failed to be a paying investment to the men who succeeded him, and in 1886 it fell into the hands of Judge Criss again, and soon he sold to W. G. Wine—about 1889—and he sold to Mr. Robbins, who owned it when it was burned in 1895. It had not paid for more than a year prior to its burning, since 1872-73."

After the burning of the mill a stock company of home capitalists was organized and the mill was rebuilt and run with a capacity of seventy-five barrels per day of excellent flour. It was started as the new organization's property in February, 1896.

Another account of the mills was published as follows: "On Coon river, adjoining the town, and only a quarter of a mile from the court house, are the City Mills, the property of pioneer Eugene Criss. They have three run of stones (one for the making of patent flour) and the mill is propelled by the waters of the Coon river, which stream Mr. Criss threw a dam across in 1862. In 1857 he built here a steam mill, but after his dam was built run both mills by water power. After the building of railroads and the getting in of pine lumber, the saw mill had about served the purpose

for which it had been constructed and the whole was changed to a flouring mill plant in 1871, when the first grist was ground during the month of December."

#### HOTELS.

The history of the various hotels in Sac City would of itself make a very interesting chapter, but all the space allowed in a work of this character and scope is the following on this topic: At the time of the opening of the present Park Hotel, in September, 1912, Attorney W. H. Hart was assigned a paper or remarks on the hotels of the past in Sac City, and from this account the following has been extracted: The first hotel was that built by pioneer Eugene Criss, in 1855, just east of what is now Monument Square. It was a log house, fourteen by seventeen feet, with a loft reached by means of a ladder. There was only one room below, and this served as kitchen, dining room, living room and bedroom for the landlord and his estimable wife, who is still living, past ninety years of age, and resides on the opposite side of the street. One corner of this lower room was partitioned off by a curtain and there Mr. and Mrs. Criss had their sleeping apartments.

In 1857 this log house was enlarged to seven rooms. This was the best hotel between Fort Dodge and Sioux City, and it was on the government stage route between the two places named. Here stopped as guests many well-known men of the great West, including the first United States senator, Gen. George W. Jones, of Dubuque, Captain Pollock and General Sully, of the United States army, Hon. John F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge, who was a frequent visitor here in court time for many years. The upper room, or loft, was provided with home-made beds of poles fastened together with slats nailed across the tops, covered with straw ticks—called excellent in those pioneer times. Later, this hotel was conducted by Asa Platt. Next came the Lamoreaux House, late in the fifties, by M. S. Lee. It stood on the corner now occupied by the John Fox block, and was kept by William Todd several years, then fell to the Lamoreaux family and still later to D. J. Clark.

The next in order, perhaps, was the Hendrickson House, built by William Chapin, and run a few years later by A. H. Hendrickson, for whom it was finally named. This was known as the most prominent hotel in Sac City for many years, and was visited by all travelers in the great Northwest. Hendrickson was succeeded by Jed Landon, and he in turn by Mr.

Hendrickson, a second time. A. C. Thomas and wife also conducted this hotel, and they were immediately succeeded by D. M. Farmer, the present landlord and owner of the new Park Hotel. This house was a part of what is known, and has been for some time, as the "Park Hotel."

The Baxter House was built in 1873 by Anson Baxter. It was originally built east of the northeast corner of the court house square and afterwards moved to the west half of the block, on which the present hotel now stands. It was operated many years by Mr. Baxter, and later by George Stanley, and then known as the Stanley House.

The Shirk House, now known as the Transient, was built by D. E. Shirk and wife in 1879-80 and managed by them until the death of both. It then became the property of S. L. Watt and was operated by C. W. Ward for a time and fell into the hands of William Weldon.

Other hotels have been the Bauer, by W. P. Bauer, now a residence property. The Nieworth House was also used for hotel purposes for a number of years by W. F. Moyer and of late by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Nieworth.

The Bimer House, at the Northwestern depot, was built by John H. Beimer. Could these old buildings but talk, what tales they could relate of bygone days.

The present Park Hotel is built and run on purely modern plans and is a credit to the county and city of Sac. It was opened September 19, 1912.

#### INDUSTRIES.

The Sac City Creamery was established in 1879, formerly situated a mile and a half from town. G. M. Parker later built a fine brick building; had an engine room, ice house and wash room connected. This was built in 1882 and cost five thousand dollars. Operation in the creamery commenced in April, 1882. It was run on the cream-gathering plan.

The Sac City Greenhouse, C. A. Nokes, proprietor, is one of the beauty spots of this city. It is located on West Main street, near the Northwestern depot, where a fine, large assortment of the choicest array of flowers may be seen at all seasons of the year. This industry was established in the nineties. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nokes thoroughly understand their business and most of the floral offerings for adornment at home, at funerals and weddings in this section come from this greenhouse.

The greatest industry of the city now is, perhaps, the plant of the Cement Product Company, which corporation was formed in 1912, and



took over the interests of the Sac City Cement Pipe Company, owned by J. J. and J. P. Hammen. The first officers of the present corporation were: J. J. Hammen, president; J. J. Radford, vice-president and secretary; R. F. Mallory, treasurer. This concern manufactures a superior cement pipe for ditching and sewer purposes, which finds sale in all parts of the country. Their works are near the Milwaukee depot, where most of the raw material, such as sand and fine gravel, is found in great abundance. The machinery is all modern and the capacity is large.

Most certainly the canning factory is one of Sac City's best enterprises, during the season in which it is operated. In 1900 this plant was located in the western part of the city, and its first cost was about thirty thousand dollars. Up to 1910 it was under the supervision of H. H. Allison, who conducted a successful canning season with the return of each year's crop as long as he was connected therewith. During 1910 Mr. Allison disposed of his interest in the factory to W. C. and A. H. Ellis, of Vinton, this state, A. H. Ellis having charge of the plant in Sac City. Under the new management this factory has had many new improvements installed. The canning of sweet corn is the principal work of this factory. The canning season usually lasts about a month—sometimes three weeks and again five weeks' run. During this season there are required about three hundred and fifty men and women to care for the product. About two million cans of excellent grade sweet corn is annually canned at this factory—a great industry for prairie Iowa and Sac county. Sweet corn has become profitable to raise in this section, for it brings in to the farmer many dollars which he needs before the marketing of his regular field corn crop.

In 1908 this canning company purchased the plant at Storm Lake and have, in addition to their large interests at Vinton, been running these two in western Iowa. All these factories turn out a large annual output which finds ready sale in nearby cities, through grocers and commission men. "The Sac Brand" sells in case lots everywhere.

Among the earlier enterprises may be mentioned an iron foundry and machine shop, of which the *Sun* in 1879 said: "The iron foundry of Sac City was established by Thomas Wood, uses an eight-horse-power engine and employs five workmen. Here portable steam engines are manufactured; also oil mills made. With these works is the only foundry and machine shop in the county."

Another of the industries of Sac City that naturally finds place in this connection is the lightning rod manufacturing plant of Martin & Company,

who are the successors to the firm of Dodd & Elwood, who finally established great plants in both Des Moines and Omaha. Sac City is the home of this superior lightning rod—a twisted wire of copper material. In short, the idea was conceived of by Platt Armstrong at Lake View when he tested his theory on a barn he had built at an early date, and from what he discovered finally developed into the copper rod now so popular all over the country.

#### THE WAYT MONUMENT WORKS.

In many ways one of the most valuable industries in Sac City, at present, is the wholesale and retail monument works of W. B. Wayt & Son. This business was established in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1867 by W. B. and B. F. Wayt, under the name of B. F. Wayt & Brother. A few years later the plant was moved to Jefferson, Iowa, and in 1889 moved to Sac City. At first it was located in a small shop on Fifth street, in a room twenty by twenty feet. There the business was carried on along business lines, ever seeking to do excellent work and treat patrons fairly. As the business increased, more room had to be provided and in a few years the shop was moved to a building on the corner of Fifth and Audubon streets, and there it assumed larger proportions than before; the trade began to reach out over a much larger scope of territory, and in the month of December, 1913, it was removed again to a new building, near the Chicago & Northwestern railway depot. At this date (March, 1914) only the basement of their new quarters is occupied. When completed, the building will be a brick and stone building twenty-seven by one hundred feet, with two floors. Electric power and compressed air equipment are installed in this factory, from which annually goes forth an immense amount of fine granite and marble monument work, to all parts of the Northwest. Ten men are constantly employed and from five to seven solicitors are on the road taking orders. This firm does an annual business of about eighty thousand dollars.

When the business was established at Sac City Mr. Wayt's brother remained at Jefferson. L. R. Wayt, the son of W. B. Wayt, of Sac City, was taken in as a partner in 1901, and has been instrumental in helping to greatly enlarge the business, and in 1906 a wholesale department was established, which has proven very successful.

Besides their business in Sac county, this enterprising firm maintains an office for purchasing its foreign granite, at No. 46-A Union street, Aber-

deen, Scotland. They also are stockholders in a granite quarry at St. Cloud, Minnesota.

It was this firm, of whom Sac City is justly proud, that so liberally donated the beautiful and expensive monument at the foot of the new section of the city cemetery, dedicated to the memory of the fallen heroes of the Civil War, an account of which has already been given in another chapter in this work. This firm constructs mausoleums and large monuments as specialty work, and do a large wholesale and retail business.

The extensive seed house of Conger, Ball & Company, of Sac City, was established in 1907 and their present large warehouse, on the Northwestern railway tracks, was erected in 1910. It is thirty by one hundred feet in area and three stories high. Here all kinds of farm and field seeds are handled in a retail and jobbing way. Seed corn, grain seeds, clover and timothy seeds are all carried in immense quantities. Many of these superior seeds are grown in Sac county, and find ready sale in western Iowa and some jobbing is extended into adjoining states.

The Sac City Nursery is the property of W. W. Stokes, and is situated within the corporate limits of the town. It has been in existence a number of years and carries a good variety of fruit and shade trees, shrubs, etc., all suitable for this part of the country. There are only two nurseries in Sac county, the one above named and one in operation at Grant City.

The Sac City Catering Company was incorporated in 1913 with a capital of ten thousand dollars. The object of this company is to manufacture and sell Guernsey ice cream, sherbets and fancy ices throughout the surrounding country. The company will establish a complete bottling works, and for the present season will occupy a part of the Sac City creamery building, but expect in 1915 to erect a large, modern building of their own. The officers of this corporation are: L. R. Wayt, president; J. H. Anthony, vice-president; C. M. Whitted, secretary; O. C. Pfaff, treasurer. The business of making such articles is largely, on the increase in America, and here, right in the field where the dairy and cream interests are large, is a suitable location in which to build up an extensive business along this line.

Marion Mock's feed mill is another useful and growing industry which furnishes the community with ground feed, and the concern also retails and wholesales family flour, etc. Their plant is near the Northwestern station in this city.

The Sac City Creamery is doing an excellent business. Its proprietor is A. E. Schultz, who established the plant in May, 1913. He occupies the

cement block building erected and used as a garage by R. D. Bechler. Mr. Schultz was engaged in like business at Grant county, Wisconsin, for eighteen years and was president of the National Creamery Association. This plant in Sac City is furnished with modern machinery and has a daily capacity of three thousand pounds. Four or five men here find constant employment. The butter from this creamery finds ready sale in Boston, Massachusetts. The cream is brought in from a radius of ten miles from Sac City.

#### ALLEN INSTITUTE.

What was known as the Allen Institute, a hospital for the cure of those addicted to the liquor, tobacco and opium habits, was established in Sac City in 1893 and finally incorporated with a home capital of fifty thousand dollars, for the treatment of such unfortunate cases. Dr. J. I. Allen and Frank C. Hoagland were the originators and held similar remedies as were then popularly known as "Keeley Cures." The president was Mr. Allen; vice-president, C. A. Pratt; S. M. Elwood, treasurer; D. G. Platt, secretary. They held the exclusive rights for Iowa on their remedy.

#### MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Sac City ran along as other country county-seat towns in those times did, until 1875, when it was duly incorporated under the laws of the state. Eugene Criss, known as the "Father of Sac City," was elected the first mayor of the place when it was incorporated. He addressed the trustees (council) upon taking his seat as follows: "Fellow Citizens, I do not feel at perfect liberty to enter upon the duties of my office without first tendering you my thanks for the confidence you still have in me as the pioneer of your beloved city. It is nearly twenty years ago since I built the first cabin of your town, when the marks were yet fresh from the wigwams of the hostile Sioux Indians, who had chosen, as they later informed me, as the pride of their lives, this location. Nearly twenty years of the prime of my life have been spent right here, and today I can say that my expectations have been more than realized. Some of the most magnificent structures have been erected where but a few years ago all was in a stage of a real wilderness. Everything around us has the appearance of prosperity and happiness, and for this, with many other reasons, we ought to be thankful to God.

"And in entering upon the duties of our different offices to which we have been elected, let us try to have all our efforts crowned with success.

And in order that this may be, it becomes our duty in framing ordinances that we observe the Sabbath day and that all public places be kept closed, except hotels and others in cases of necessity. Relying upon all good citizens to aid us in this new enterprise, we believe our labors will be crowned with success."

The first year's report on finances in the newly incorporated town shows the following: Revenues—Billiards, \$87.50; beer and wine, \$75.00; bagatelle, \$10; restaurants, \$12; dog tax, \$51; shows, \$8.00; sidewalks, \$60.75; auctioneers, \$5.00; fines and peddlers, \$2.00; total, \$311.74.

The city has progressed with the passing of the years, until it has come to be known as a "clean city," and also a saloonless city.

The incorporation owns a good city hall, in which the council chamber and fire department are located. Sac City now has an indebtedness of about fifteen thousand dollars. The city has been in the hands of good officials, for the most part. Among its mayors may be mentioned such men as Phil Schaller, W. H. Hart, J. M. Highland, D. Carr Early, C. E. Lee, J. H. Tait, Dr. J. H. Stalford, Orville Lee, W. O. Gishwiller and Dr. W. H. Townsend.

#### WATER WORKS AND LIGHTING, ETC.

In the month of July, 1884, the authorities of Sac City contracted with Fairbanks, Morse & Company, Chicago, to furnish all the necessary materials to be used in the construction of a waterworks plant. The price paid for such material was three thousand five hundred dollars. The plant was located west of the Northwestern tracks. At first a wind-mill afforded the power with which the water was pumped from a large well, to a tank holding one thousand six hundred barrels of water. The pump's capacity was five hundred barrels per day. The contract for digging the trenches was let to an Ida Grove man at one dollar and sixty cents per rod. The entire work of putting in the plant was fixed so as to be completed September 1, 1884.

This plant was never a success, and the town was under a great strain each year for want of good, pure water in a sufficient quantity to supply all demands upon it. Change after change was made until, in 1894, a company of enterprising citizens purchased a boiler and good pumping outfit, and leased same to the city authorities, after which a better service was given. In 1899 a new reservoir was added, giving double the capacity of the former one. The supply of water—the purest to be had in the country—is obtained

from a series of big springs, out to the northwest of the city a mile or two, the same being piped to the immense stand-pipe in the city.

The electric lighting proposition was brought up in February, 1898, and submitted to the people, who decided by a large majority to install a fifteen-thousand-dollar plant, the same to be provided by individual subscriptions in stock of fifty dollars per share. This measure was adopted by the vote of the people, by a majority of two hundred and one. The plant was installed and the city first had electric lights September 14, 1908. The next great lighting improvement was in July, 1911, when the present electrolier system of street lights was set in motion. A demonstration was had; music and an automobile program and parade was carried out. This system was installed by a Des Moines firm and cost one thousand five hundred dollars for the twenty-five poles erected with their five globes of beautiful light.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Ever alive to the best interests and protection of the property of the place, Sac City has a well organized, well-trained fire company which stands high among the companies in the western part of the state. It has a membership of forty, divided into two wings or divisions, Summit Hose Company and the Clipper Company, the former having headquarters on the hill, which the latter has its home at the City Hall. The best type of young manhood makes up these two fire-fighting companies. They are well supplied by the city with the best of equipment, such as plenty of hose, hook-and-ladder apparatus, nozzles, hydrants, etc. When the alarm is given and the wagons start citizens know the fire will soon be extinguished. The firemen are backed by the best waterworks system possible to provide, a stand-pipe full of water, with great natural pressure. There are now forty-eight fire plugs or street hydrants in use. The department has two chemical engines, two hose carts, and two hook-and-ladder outfits.

The city officials in the month of March, 1914, are: Mayor, N. O. Gishwiller; clerk, W. F. Weary; treasurer, C. C. Jameson; police, George I. Cory; night watchman, J. E. Austin; health officer, Dr. W. J. Findley; city councilmen, J. Wilbur Neal, B. S. Wallace, Wesley Gilbert, John Anthony, J. I. Prentice, B. A. Young.

In March, 1907, an election was held in the city to determine on some course to be pursued by which the city might be assured of better park accommodations. It was proposed to take over the defunct agricultural so-

ciety, and bond the town for twenty years by a two-mill tax. There were two hundred and eight women voted and four hundred and forty-two men, and the measure carried by sixty-four majority. No further action was ever had in the matter.

#### COMMERCIAL CLUB.

What is known as the Commercial Club, in Sac City, was organized in 1910 and has accomplished big things for the place. It unites the business men and concentrates their aim on the general welfare of the place. Practically every business man here is associated with this club, which is purely a business institution for the upbuilding of Sac City. At first they were prominent in laying off the Hawkeye Cutoff, which runs from Fort Dodge to Sioux City. They aided in putting up sign-boards and also assisted in doing much towards good roads in the county. Among the early officers and committeemen were such men as the following: J. H. Stalford, F. W. Loring, George B. Perkins, J. M. Fox, L. R. Wayt, F. R. Brownell, W. A. Ball, S. M. Elwood, Asa Platt, H. J. Drewry, Byron Wallace, J. W. Wilson and J. H. Harter. The Commercial Club works under the city's motto, "We do better—come and see."

The present officers (1914) are: R. L. McCord, Jr., president; W. J. Findley, vice-president; R. R. Cobb, secretary; John H. Fox, treasurer.

The city is provided with an-to-date opera house, which was opened to the general public in December, 1883, "The Planter's Wife" being the first play put upon the stage. In 1906 the association was reincorporated with a capital of twenty thousand dollars and the present opera house was erected.

The Chicago & Northwestern railroad entered the city in 1879, and this greatly enthused the people to set about improving the place. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad entered the city in 1899, thus giving connections with two great trunk lines of steam railway.

Public drinking fountains were provided in the city, through the efforts of the Commercial Club, in September, 1911.

#### OAKLAND CEMETERY.

The manner in which any people—city or country—cares for its departed dead, is almost a true index to the real character of such people. This marks the distinction between the civilized and uncivilized.

What is known as Oakland Cemetery Association was formed and



duly incorporated May 25, 1874, under the state incorporation laws provided for in the statutes as a corporation, "not for pecuniary profit," and the articles provide that no stock shall be authorized, no certificates of stock shall ever be issued and no dividends ever be declared. The object of this corporation is to purchase, or acquire by gift or otherwise, lands suitable for cemetery purposes and to care for and maintain a cemetery to be known as "Oakland Cemetery" and to sell and convey lots herein for cemetery purposes only. No member has any interest in the assets and property of the association and all money received shall be used in buying additional real estate, caring for the property and beautifying the grounds. The affairs of this association are managed by a board of directors, and are in no way controlled by any religious organization or body. The grounds are kept up from the proceeds of the lots sold, and a small annual fee charged each lot owner for the care of his or her lots. The original cemetery, as above named, consisted of between fifteen and seventeen acres of land just north of the city, proper, and in the beautiful second-growth oak forest, near the bridge crossing the Coon river into Sac City. A cement walk runs from the main street of the city to the entrance of this portion of the cemetery. By reason of what nature has done for this site, and the improvements made by the association, it is called by visitors of extensive travel to be one of the finest burying grounds within all Iowa. J. W. Sutherland has been the painstaking sexton for many years.

Only a few years ago it became manifest that the city would ere long need more extensive grounds and, wisely, the directors of the association purchased a large addition on the uplands, to the north of the first named grounds. Here there are already a goodly number of graves. At the entrance of the addition there stands an imposing granite monument in memory of the soldier dead of the community. This was the work and donation of Messrs. W. B. Wayt & Son, wholesale and retail dealers in granite and marble work, of Sac City. Its base and sides contain the following inscriptions:

*"Presented September, 1906, by W. B. Wayt and Son to the  
General W. T. Sherman Post No. 28 G. A. R."*

*"Dedicated to the Defenders of the Union—1861-1865."*

*"SOLDIERS,  
SAILORS,  
CITIZENS."*

*"May the Remembrance of Their Valor and Patriotism be Perpetuated."*

These inscriptions are on the base and sides of the twenty-foot shaft. The monument stands where the south sunlight strikes it in full force. It is surrounded by a good cement circular walk, with a neat stone carved rustic seat where the passer by, be he an old veteran, the son of a veteran or a civilian, may pause and rest and there reflect upon the defenders of the flag of our country.

The character and style, as well as the expense of the hundreds if not thousands of tombstones and larger monuments throughout both the older and later sections of Oakland are a credit to those who had them erected to the memory of their friends. There are no very elaborate and expensive monuments, but all are of more than the average age, and bespeak taste and sentiment in keeping with the sacred enclosures. No more beautiful spot could have been selected by the people of the city for a last resting place of their dead. In the springtime, when all nature is at its best, on Memorial or Decoration day, the new leaves of the great number of native oaks cast a light shadow over the sacred mounds, which are carpeted with a mantle of grass, well cared for and mowed sufficiently to present a sight not soon to be forgotten by the beholder. Here rests pioneer, later settler, soldier and civilian. "And they sleep and heed it not."

The names of the original trustees of the cemetery association were D. Carr Early, B. W. Trout, W. H. Hobbs, N. W. Condron, S. W. Sinclair, J. L. Woodward, Thomas Alexander and Eugene Criss.

The first burying ground near Sac City was that near pioneer J. W. Tiberghien's farm southeast of the city two or three miles. There were buried a number of the earlier deceased persons of the county, and many of the pioneer settlers there rest from life's cares and joys. These grounds, consisting of about five acres, are cared for in a most sacred and scrupulous manner by J. W. Tiberghien, who takes great pride and considers it a duty imposed upon him, so long as he lives, to see that this spot of ground is properly protected and cared for. Here are tombstones showing many persons buried there to have been born before 1800, a thing not observed at another place in Sac county. These grounds were first used at the commencement of the Civil War by the public, but previous to that a few had been buried there.

Pioneer Hugh Cory states that at an early day there were found three Indian burying grounds, situated in triangular form, on the southeast corner of the present public square, and on the opposite side of what is now Main street, near the east end of Monument park. Here were excavated many

Indian skeletons when the street was dug away for town improvement purposes.

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Perhaps no better history of this institution can be given than the following record which was made and deposited in the corner stone of the new Carnegie Library building, which record runs thus:

"On the snowy night of January 11, 1907, a mass meeting was held in the courtroom to plan for a free public library. Miss Alice Tyler, secretary of the Iowa state library commission, gave a talk on "Public Libraries and the Practicability of Procuring a Library for Sac City." Professor Garrett, superintendent of the public schools, presided. At the close of the talk committees were appointed to draft a constitution, secure members, and to solicit funds. The committee on constitution, composed of Professor Garrett, G. W. Lee and S. M. Stouffer, conferred and recommended a constitution adapting the requirements of the state library law to the needs of towns without maintenance tax. This was used until the town had such a tax. Miss Tyler brought with her a case of fifty books from the state traveling library and left them for three months and thus the library was started.

"In February a meeting was held at which it was found there had been one hundred and forty-six members secured, each paying one dollar a year membership fee. From this number a board of nine trustees was selected, as follows: Dr. B. P. Blackstone, J. H. Tait, Ed Welch, Jr., G. W. Lee, E. L. Ahrens, Mesdames Z. Fuller, E. N. Bailey, F. W. Loring and Miss Nellie Banes. The personnel of the board has changed but little, thus giving continuity and uniformity to the work. Dr. Blackstone was the first president; Mrs. Loring, vice-president; E. L. Ahrens, treasurer, and Miss Nellie Banes, secretary.

"The council room, in the new city hall, was secured for the library, the city furnishing the light. From the beginning it has been open two afternoons and evenings, each week, and, for awhile, two hours each Sunday afternoon. Seven young ladies have served as librarians and much credit should be given them for their interest and faithfulness. They are Misses Eva Fitch, Nellie Banes, Mary Fuller, Clare Persons, Pearl Ahrens, Nan Denman and Ida Ahrens.

"The annual reports show the steady increase in interest which the movement had from the beginning.

"The first annual report, made March 4, 1908, shows the library associa-

tion now owns eight hundred books, has two hundred and fifty borrowers and has received \$307.19, expended \$233.06, leaving a balance of \$74.13 in the treasury. Plans were made at this meeting to raise a fund of \$1,000 and \$403 were subscribed.

"Second Annual Report.—This shows that on March 1, 1909, the number of volumes owned by the association, 710; number of books added during the year 450; books loaned, 2,600; expenditures, \$308.41. Dr. Blackstone having removed from town, W. J. Dixon was elected to fill the vacancy.

"Third Annual Report, March 2, 1910: Number of volumes, 861; number of borrowers, 580; number of books donated, 25; number of books bought, 124; number of books loaned, 4,076; number of magazines taken, 4; number of books mended, 40; expenditures for the year, \$210.85. Miss Edna Lyman, of the state library commission, visited the library and held a story hour for the different grades in the public school, meeting the people of the town at night. Story hours for the children were started and conducted by Miss Pearl Ahrens. These proved very helpful and gave the children a taste for the best literature. Later Mrs. J. Irving Brown gave the story hours in the high school building, calling the attention of the students to the best present-day fiction.

"Annual Report for 1911: Number of volumes in library, 1,130; number added during the year, 168; total circulation during the year, 6,385; largest daily circulation, 122; smallest daily circulation, 21; average, 64; per centage of children's books circulated, 51  $\frac{5}{6}$ ; of adults, 8  $\frac{1}{6}$ ; number books rebound, 3; number books repaired, 165; number of newspapers and magazines, 8; number of borrowers' cards in full force, 700; number of days open during the year, 100; number of hours open each week, 10; fourteen story hours were held.

"Movement For Maintenance Tax.—Steps were taken in 1909 to secure a Carnegie library building and a proposition was submitted to the people of the town to secure a library maintenance tax. This proposition was defeated at an election held March 29, 1909.

"January, 1910, plans were again made to secure this maintenance tax and a campaign started. Intelligent interest grew and when the president, W. J. Dixon, appeared before the council submitting the following resolution the council unanimously adopted it; the councilmen at the time were J. H. Stoner, M. M. Heptonstall, C. A. Schulte, A. T. Brownell and Ira Conger, with Dr. W. H. Townsend, mayor. The resolution read: 'Be it resolved by the city council of Sac City, Iowa, that a special election be called,

the same to be held on the 12th day of July, A. D. 1910, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the incorporated city of Sac City, Iowa, the proposition of providing and maintaining a free public library in the city of Sac City, Iowa; that a tax not to exceed three mills on the dollar of the assessable property of the incorporated city of Sac City, Iowa, be levied for the maintenance of said library; that notice of the election be published in the *Sac Sun* and the *Sac County Bulletin*; and that the requirements and conditions of Andrew Carnegie be complied with in accepting his donations for such purposes in establishing a free public library, the said city of Sac City guaranteeing for the maintenance of said library the sum of eight hundred dollars per year.'

"This special election resulted in a vote of three hundred and forty-nine for and one hundred and sixty-four against, and Sac City had a public library maintained by the people and for the people.

"At a council meeting held July 28, 1910, the following trustees were appointed as the board: W. J. Dixon, Mrs. F. W. Loring, E. L. Ahrens, Miss Nellie Banes, Orville Lee, E. N. Bailey, G. W. Lee, Ira Conger, and Mrs. Z. Fuller. The following officers were elected: President, W. J. Dixon; vice-president, Mrs. F. W. Loring; secretary, Miss Nellie Banes; treasurer, E. L. Ahrens.

"Correspondence was resumed with Andrew Carnegie and a committee was appointed to secure a lot for the library building.

"In January, 1911, Mr. Carnegie gave to Sac City the promise of the sum of eight thousand dollars for a building. The site selected was that known as the old schoolhouse lots, being as follows: Commencing sixty-four feet west of the northeast corner of block 17, original town of Sac City, thence south one hundred and thirty-two feet, thence west one hundred and twenty feet, thence north one hundred and thirty-two feet to the place of beginning: being lot No. 2 and parts of lots 1 and 3 and the alley between lots 2 and 3 in said block 17, original town of Sac City, Iowa, Sac county, Iowa.

"W. J. Dixon, E. N. Bailey and Mrs. Loring were made the building committee. Miss Alice Tyler, of the state library commission, met with the board and gave a talk on the requirements and needs of a library building. Prondfoot, Bird & Rawson, of Des Moines, Iowa, were chosen as architects for the building. After submitting three plans to Mr. Carnegie and making the changes he desired, plans were accepted and work commenced in the spring of 1912, W. J. Gordon being the contractor. Owing to pressure of



A CITY OF GOOD STREETS AND SUBSTANTIAL BUILDINGS



THE CANNING INDUSTRY, SAC CITY





outside business, Mr. Dixon asked to be released from the building committee and Mr. Ira Conger took his place, D. E. Hallett kindly assuming the superintendency of the building. July 1, 1912, the corner stone was laid with the following program: Prayer, Rev. R. L. Barackman; music; laying the corner stone; address, "Corner Stones," Rev. J. Irving Brown; music; benediction, Rev. Henry B. Burns.

"From the children of the town has come the greatest inspiration and for them, for all the people and for future generations, the board of trustees has sought to meet the needs of the times, to anticipate the needs of the future and to uplift for all time, through the best literature, not only this community, but the communities which shall be touched by the citizens of this town."

In January, 1914, there were in this library one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five volumes; a list of nineteen magazines and two daily and two weekly newspapers taken. The present librarian is Nan Denman.

#### REMEMBERING WASHINGTON.

The centennial of the inauguration of President George Washington was observed in Sac City, April 30, 1889, when a fine programme was had and in which the following made addresses: Judge Eugene Criss spoke of Washington from his childhood on down through his surveying experiences, and his military career. He was followed by J. E. Robbins, J. H. Tait, A. B. Mason, Hon. D. J. McDaid and W. H. Hart. At sunrise there was fired the salute of thirteen guns, representing the thirteen original states. The bells of the town rung out clear and musical at nine o'clock in the morning.

#### POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

The postoffice at Sac City was established in 1857. It was on the old stage coach line from Fort Dodge to Sioux City. Before its establishment mail was brought by individuals who were hired here and sent to Fort Dodge and given twenty-five cents a letter or newspaper brought back here to the little settlement. The advent of the stage was indeed a great event in the history of Sac county. Sac City had a stage station kept by pioneer Eugene Criss, who also kept travelers and homeseekers. His log house and spacious barn were ever open to guests and many a night, relates the venerable old Mrs. Criss, still surviving aged about ninety years, her husband used to be called up later than midnight, by weary teamsters and travelers who knew

full well that here they might find rest for themselves and their beasts. She remarks that "We always found room for one more."

Sac City is now a second class postoffice, made so July 1, 1909, eight mails being received and eight dispatched daily. The free rural delivery routes now number six. The amount of savings deposits have so far only reached two hundred and six dollars. The amount of business transacted during the year ending November 30, 1913, was \$9,992.03. This is exclusive of money order transactions.

The postoffice has been housed in its present quarters for twenty years. So far as now remembered, this postoffice has never had a loss by defalcation, fire or robbery.

The present force in the office includes postmaster Charles L. Early, his assistant postmaster, just nominated but not approved at this date; Fred C. Davis, first clerk; David W. Cafferty, carrier rural delivery No. 1; Sanford R. Bodwell, No. 2; Claude B. Keir, No. 3; Lee Tiberghien, No. 4; Charles W. Hurst, No. 5; and James W. Cafferty, No. 6.

It is believed that the great lack of boxes in this postoffice, at this date, is due to the fact that the government proposes to ere long establish a free city delivery in Sac City.

The following have served as postmasters at Sac City since the establishment of the office fifty-six years ago: Andrew J. Taylor, October 24, 1857; William Todd, from April 9, 1859, to May 7, 1867, when D. C. Early commenced his duties and served till December 30, 1868, and was succeeded by A. H. Hendrickson, who held the office to March 1, 1871, and was followed by J. E. Armstrong, and he was followed February 2, 1876, by R. H. Lamoreaux, who held the position till J. H. James was commissioned, December 2, 1886, serving till James N. Miller took the office, January 20, 1890, serving until J. W. Garrison's appointment, December 20, 1892, he serving until November 4, 1893, and was succeeded by James L. Comstock, and he in turn was followed November 5, 1897, by J. W. Wilson, who held the office till the present incumbent, Charles L. Early, was commissioned, February 5, 1906, under President Roosevelt.

The average term has been for the whole period here in Sac City, four years and eight months, R. H. Lamoreaux having held the office the longest period, ten years, from February 2, 1876, to December 2, 1886.

## CHAUTAUQUA ASSOCIATION.

The Sac City Chautauqua Association was organized in the month of December, 1904, at a public meeting assembled for that purpose. It was thought to be in time for holding a course of lectures in 1905, which was carried out. The first committee appointed to perfect the organization consisted of these gentlemen: Prof. G. W. Lee, S. M. Elwood, Dr. W. J. Findley, S. M. Stouffer, Dr. J. H. Stalford and W. J. Dixon. The same month a stock association was formed of about one hundred and twenty members or shareholders, who under the terms of the rules and incorporation specifications were to have shares of ten dollars each and the assessment on same to keep up the association should in no case be allowed to exceed the price paid for such share in the association. The corporation was perfected by the election of its nine directors as follows: W. J. Dixon, F. E. Gordon, Dr. W. J. Findley, Fred R. Stearns, Dr. Z. Fuller, Frank R. Brownell, Rev. Walter Tobert, G. W. Lee, Frank W. Loring and its officers were chosen as follows: W. J. Dixon, president; F. E. Gordon, vice-president; Dr. W. J. Findley, secretary; Fred R. Stearns, treasurer.

The institution was formed not with a view of making any profit, but simply to secure high class entertainment in the way of public lectures, etc., which should be forever void of the cheap and demoralizing tendencies in lecture platform work. The first active work was when Dr. Findley and Frank R. Brownell went about soliciting subscriptions for the hundred and twenty shares taken, which was all soon accomplished. The real date of perfecting the association's organization was December 21, 1904.

In the spring of 1908 an auditorium was erected, just at the west entrance of the fair grounds, on the east bank of the Coon river. It is ninety-eight by one hundred and twenty feet, with an octagonal front. It required eighty thousand feet of lumber, one hundred and twenty squares of roofing material and a ton of nails to construct it. Its cost was three thousand four hundred and seventy-five dollars. Hon. Phil Schaller, now deceased, donated a handsome United States flag which each season adorns the dome of this building, which is nestled in among the native trees along the waters of the Coon. They now own eleven acres along the Coon river front—a natural park—and have expended about seven thousand dollars and only owe a thousand dollars at this date, or thereabouts. The officers for 1914 are: F. E. Gordon, president; Otto Pfaff, secretary; George B. Perkins, treasurer.

The remainder of the board of directors are as follows: Dr. W. J. Findley, who was secretary for years, F. H. Coburn, Orville Lee, W. J. Dixon, C. C. Jameson and Dr. Z. Fuller.

#### FARMERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The first meeting of the Sac County Farmers Mutual Insurance Association was held in June, 1875, at the county auditor's office. The first officers elected were: Phil Schaller, president; H. A. Pierce, vice-president; Joseph Dobson, secretary; James Taylor, treasurer. A board of directors was selected from the townships, sixteen in all, one being a resident of each civil township in the county. The company insures against loss by reason of fire and lightning, on all farm property,—real estate and stock,—but no town risks are taken. The following have served as secretaries: Joseph Dobson, James N. Miller, Elwood Tatum, Walter Rutledge, F. E. Gordon, from 1893 to January 20, 1914; F. H. Colburn, who is still serving as the secretary. The present (1914) officers are: R. M. Long, president; L. E. Irwin, vice-president; F. A. Colburn, secretary; J. Y. Campfield, treasurer. The 1914 board of directors are as follows: C. A. Drewry, D. McTigue, F. E. Smith, George W. Gould, John Halling, A. Mason, E. A. Walrod, W. W. Rhoades, E. L. Ahrens, Ed. Williams, C. L. Wade, S. E. Peck, L. P. Lowry, William Nutzman, Charles Hechtner, W. F. Charles.

This is purely a mutual company, and there have been written, since the company was formed almost forty years ago, 9,258 policies. In September, 1913, there was in force insurance to the amount of \$3,857.806. The losses paid from September, 1912, to 1913 amounted to \$6,000.88. Property is only insured to the amount of \$2,000. Two-thirds of the supposed value of the property may be included in the risk taken. The average cost, for the last five years, has been \$1.74 per thousand dollars. In 1913 it ran as low as \$1.22 per thousand. The annual average cost, in the last twenty-six years history of the company, has been only \$1.83 per thousand dollars worth of property insured. There have been only twenty-eight assessments made on the policy holders since the establishment of the company, and the total amount in mills paid has been forty-seven and three-quarters. This company has always stood the inspection and test of the state insurance department, and today stands high among the "mutuals" of Iowa. No chance for litigation, as a board of adjusters and arbitrators obviate law suits. The only expense is the running of the secretary's office and advertising. The farmers

get the benefit of all there may be in the company. The main office has always been at Sac City, save for a few months when the secretary resided at a side town. About four thousand dollars is now on hand in the treasury, and this will pay losses until it becomes necessary to assess the policy holders again.

#### THE GOOD TIME CLUB.

Concerning club life in Sac City, the following has been written especially for this work by Mrs. Robert Engelhardt:

It was the social instinct in mankind which no doubt led to the organization of the Country Club, north of Sac City, officially known as the Good Time Club. The upward tendency of prices of farm lands had resulted in frequent changes in the personnel of the community and the old-time sociability of pioneer life was on the ebb, not because the early residents were less social or that the new comers were unsocial, but the natural unrest of a community during the alluring speculative period of rapidly rising values in farm lands and consequently frequent changes of ownership was being felt.

The people seemed dependent largely on their affiliation with church and lodge life in the town for their social activities, there being no neighborhood social center where they might meet and become better acquainted.

Believing that the interests of farm life are best served by the fostering of rural centers, four families who had been drawn together by common interests met at the house of Robert Engelhardt, in November, 1906, and decided to see what could be done toward the organization of a rural club. It was agreed that each family represented should invite one family to attend a meeting two weeks from that time to complete the organization. Accordingly, the families of A. F. Winkler, C. J. Hays, H. F. Purdom and Robert Engelhardt, together with the invited families of S. F. Brown, W. T. Highland, J. D. Eble and John Daves, met at the house of H. F. Purdom and the Good Time Club was officially launched, with A. F. Winkler as president; H. F. Purdom, vice-president, and Mrs. Robert Engelhardt as secretary and treasurer. A simple constitution covering the needs of the club was adopted. The meetings are held in rotation at the homes of the members, every two weeks on Friday evening during the winter months and every four weeks in the summer months. An unwritten law of the club prevents any one occupying the position of president the second time until each family shall have been represented in that official capacity. The elections are held annually, the last meeting in November. The membership is limited to fifteen

families and membership in the club is upon invitation after a majority vote and its popularity is attested by the fact that the membership is at all times full.

Although the social feature was predominant in bringing the club into existence, the constitution lays equal emphasis on the cultural. As the membership includes the whole family, the programs are varied, consisting of recitations, dialogues by the children, readings, papers, descriptive talks and music by the young men and women, to which is added like features by the parents, in addition to discussion of current events, legislative, local, state and national, affecting the interests of the farmer; various phases of farm life, crops, tools, live stock, also matters of interest to the home, school and community. The programs are arranged in advance by a committee appointed by the president.

There are no dues, but when money is needed an assessment is made to cover all requirements. Nor is the material life neglected for each meeting, for a lunch is served after the program is completed.

The menu is arranged by a committee, of which the hostess is always a member. The club is divided into two sections, which alternate in helping the hostess prepare the lunch, each member being asked to bring one article which the committee select. The evenings are enlivened by games and social conversation. The good fellowship which characterizes the meetings of the club is perhaps the secret of its continued existence. While the membership is limited, the hostess has the privilege of inviting guests, so that during the year many families are brought in contact with the club. The club has had numerous play times, such as picnics, fishing parties, mask parties, a George Washington costume evening, Valentine and St. Patrick parties and programs, partaking of the various holidays of the year. The present members are the families of: A. F. Wankler, C. J. Hays, Robert Engelhart, F. S. Brown, W. T. Highland, J. D. Eble, James Corsant, David Corsant, Theodore Huser, Mrs. George Smith, Clarence Brown, C. W. Highland, Charles Topley, Perry Hoskens and Elmer Cox, with Charles Topley as president; C. J. Hays, vice-president, and Mrs. James Corsant, secretary and treasurer.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

This chapter contains numerous items of general interest which of themselves were not of sufficient length to form separate chapters, but which are replete with more than ordinary interest. Here will be found the county's weather record, population, oil and mica excitement, accidents by cyclones, drowning, etc., market prices at various dates, days of mourning, farm names, village plats of the county, blizzards and early day prairie fires, and many other interesting topics.

### POPULATION OF COUNTY.

The various census reports, federal and state, give Sac county the following population: In 1856, it had 251; in 1865, it had 304; in 1870, it had 1,410; in 1875, it had 2,873; in 1880, it had 8,774; in 1885, it had 12,741; in 1890, it had 14,122; in 1895, it had 15,868; in 1900 it had reached 17,628 and in 1905 it had a population of 17,062. The census of 1910 gave it 17,689.

The following shows the number of voters, aliens and those subject to military duty at different periods in the history of the county:

In 1856 there were 67 voters, no aliens and 54 subject to militia; in 1865 there were 73 voters, and 44 subject to military duty; in 1870 there were 386 voters; in 1875, 675 voters, 17 aliens and 472 subject to military duty.

The Iowa state census reports for 1875 gave Sac county the following:

Townships.	Population.	Born in Iowa.	Born in U. S.	Voters.
Boyer township -----	234	56	167	62
Clinton township -----	155	47	97	33
Douglas township -----	386	103	198	82
Eden township -----	173	73	59	40
Jackson township -----	811	255	511	212
Levey township -----	297	79	150	55
Sac township -----	473	125	256	104
Wall Lake township ---	344	109	213	69
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Total -----	2,873	847	1,641	657



The state census reports for 1875 give the subjoined concerning the improvements and products of the county in that year:

	Improved Land.	Unimproved.	Acres Cultivated.
Boyer township -----	4,511	4,873	2,703
Clinton township -----	1,571	3,960	393
Douglas township -----	4,587	6,515	3,847
Eden township -----	3,142	4,702	2,179
Jackson township -----	7,998	11,418	6,712
Levey township -----	3,875	9,269	2,318
Sac township -----	2,953	3,740	3,587
Wall Lake township -----	2,899	2,624	2,440
Total -----	31,336	47,201	24,179

In 1874 there were 11,056 acres of spring wheat in Sac county, and it produced 110,094 bushels, or an average of not quite eleven bushels.

During the same year there was only raised ten bushels of winter wheat and that was grown in Jackson township. At that day it was not thought possible to successfully raise winter wheat in this part of Iowa.

#### UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1910.

Boyer Valley Township (including town of Early)----	1,173
Early -----	500
Cedar Township -----	817
Clinton Township -----	591
Cook Township -----	635
Coon Valley Township -----	723
Delaware Township -----	652
Douglas Township -----	558
Eden Township -----	518
Eureka Township (including town of Schaller)-----	1,166
Schaller -----	646
Jackson Township (including City) -----	2,785
Sac City -----	2,201
Levey Township (and part of Wall Lake)-----	1,064
Town -----	561
Richland Township and Odebolt -----	1,879

Town of Odebolt -----	1,283
Sac Township and Auburn and Grant City-----	1,225
Auburn -----	309
Grant City -----	162
Viola Township and part of Wall Lake-----	929
Wall Lake Township (including Lake View)-----	1,209
Town of Lake View -----	514
Wheeler Township -----	631
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Total -----	16,555

## VILLAGE PLATS.

According to the plat books in the court house at Sac City, the following is a complete list of all towns and villages platted in Sac county. This refers only to the original plattings and not to later additions and subdivisions of land:

Sac City, platted July 3, 1855, on a part of the west half of section 24, township 88, range 36. Platted by surveyor John F. Duncombe, of Ft. Dodge, Iowa, for proprietors Eugene Criss, W. S. Wagoner, Henry A. Evans and Joseph Gammon.

New Albany, platted May 16, 1857, on the northeast quarter of section 1, township 87, range 36, by A. I. Kain, Joseph Williams, surveyor. A public square was laid in the center of the platting.

Grant City, platted on section 11, township 86, range 35. A stone planted in each street. Platted by Joseph Williams and Nathan Condron.

Wall Lake, platted August 2, 1877, on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 12, township 86, range 37, by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company. (Wall Lake City had been platted in March, 1857.)

Odebolt, platted August 22, 1877, on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 27, and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 34, township 87, range 38, by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company.

Lake View, platted as "Fletcher," by J. C. Fletcher, January 10, 1881, on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 33, township 87, range 36.

Wall Lake City was platted on the north half of section 34, township 87, range 36, March 21, 1857, by Guy, Beck and Wagoner, certified by County Judge S. L. Watt.

Lake Park, platted May 23, 1892, on the east half of section 33, township 87, range 36, by the Lake View Improvement Company, Phil Schaller, president.

Nemaha, platted October 2, 1899, by the Milwaukee Land Company (Ry.), on section 22, township 89, range 36.

Lytton, platted October 3, 1899, on section 24, township 88, range 35, by the Milwaukee Land Company (Ry.).

Schaller, platted October 4, 1882, on the northeast of section 26, township 89, range 38, by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company.

Early, platted on the southeast of section 4, township 88, range 37, by the Blair Town Lot and Land Company, October 4, 1882.

Carnarvon, platted October 24, 1881, on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 15, township 86, range 36, by George W. Pitcher.

Auburn, platted July 31, 1886, by the Western Town Lot Company (Northwest railway), on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 23, township 86, range 35, and on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 24 of the same township and range.

Herring, platted on January 24, 1899, by the Chicago & Northwestern railroad (Western Town Lot Company), on section 28, township 86, range 37.

Ulmer, platted on the line of the Illinois Central railroad, on the south half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 86, range 35, November 21, 1900, by Carrie and T. W. Martin.

Leota, platted on the 10th of April, 1900, by John W. Ridler and wife, on section 15, township 86, range 36.

"Southport" was laid off as a town, but never platted legally. It was situated on what later was the J. O. Platt farm, in Wall Lake township, on the east side of the road, leading from Grant City to Sac City. It was one of the earliest on the maps showing Sac county, Iowa. It is unknown to nearly all today.

#### INCORPORATED TOWNS.

The subjoined gives a list of the present incorporated towns and cities of Sac county, together with their population and name of the postoffice (population taken from the 1910 census reports):

Schaller, situated in Eureka township, population, 661.

Early, situated in Boyer Valley township, population, 579.

Lake View, in Wall Lake township, population, 591.

Wall Lake, situated in Levey and Viola townships, population, 659.

Odebolt, situated in Richland township, population, 1,432.

Auburn, situated in Sac township, population, 293.

Grant City, situated in Sac township, population, 249.

Sac City, situated in Jackson township, population, 2,079.

Lytton, situated in Cedar township, population, 100.

The towns were named as follows: Grant City, after President Grant; Odebolt, for a creek of that name near by; Carnarvon, for a town of that name in Wales, the birthplace of Division Superintendent Hughes of the Northwestern Railroad Company; Herring, for John Herring, who owned a part of the town site; Early, for Judge Early; Schaller, for Phil Schaller; Lytton, for Lord Lytton, author and statesman; Nemaha, after the Indian name; Sac City, for the Indian tribe and township; Wall Lake for that sheet of water; Lake View from frontage on the same lake.

#### LOCAL MARKET PRICES.

The subjoined is a list of several of the staple articles and the prices at which they sold in Sac county at different dates in the county's history:

1871—The paper then just established gave the prices as follows: Best calico, twelve and one-half cents per yard; best Imperial tea, \$1.75 per pound; Young Hyson tea, eighty cents per pound; "Coffee A" sugar, six pounds per dollar; white sugar, five pounds per dollar; Reio coffee, four and one-half pounds per dollar; the *Sac Sun* then charged \$2.00 per year subscription.

1873, in the month of March: Wheat, 88 cents; corn, 35 cents; oats, 33 cents; flax seed, \$1.00 per bushel; butter, per pound, 17 cents; eggs, per dozen, 12 cents; hogs per hundred weight, \$5.75; cattle, \$5.00; salt per barrel, \$4.50.

1880, in the month of August: Butter, 12 cents per pound; eggs, 8 cents per dozen; potatoes, 25 cents per bushel; flour, \$3.00 per hundredweight; wheat, 60 cents per bushel; oats, 15 cents; corn, 19 cents.

March, 1914: Wheat, 85 cents; corn, 60 cents; potatoes, \$1.00; butter, 28 cents; eggs, 21 cents; salt, per barrel, \$1.55; flour, per hundred, \$2.80; lard, 16 cents; nails, per pound, 3 cents; bleached muslin, 9 to 15 cents; calico, 5 to 7 cents; white sugar, twenty pounds per dollar; coffee, 28 to 35 cents; tea, from 40 to 10 cents; hogs (live), \$6.75; cattle, \$7.50 to \$9.00 per hundredweight.

## THE NOTORIOUS JAMES BROTHERS AT SAC CITY.

In the sixties, seventies and eighties the country was more or less disturbed by the depredations, theft, robbery and murders committed by a large number of outlaws, from Missouri and Kansas, which included the famous James boys—Frank and Jesse—the Youngers and the Bender families, whose principal work was confined to Missouri and Kansas, but in the seventies they made an extended raid as far north as Northfield, Minnesota, at which place occurred what has since been commonly referred to as the "Northfield Bank Robbery." These famous outlaws were the result of bad blood engendered at the time of the Civil War, and they were taking revenge on innocent persons on account of real or fancied wrongs committed against their fathers and mothers who held to Southern sympathies.

The following which appeared in the *Rockwood* (Pennsylvania) *Gazette*, in 1904, was written by its editor, who, in the seventies, was a "printer's devil" at Sac City, then a small village in Sac county, Iowa, at which place the James boys halted for a drink on their retreat from the north to their home in the Kansas City country, although at the time they were not recognized by the citizens of Sac City.

C. F. Overacker, the printer referred to, says: "One bright summer morning while pumping a pail of water at a well in an unfrequented part of the hamlet of Sac City, near the office of the *Sac Sun*, two unkempt, unshorn and not altogether fierceless looking men on saddleless horses, steaming with perspiration, rode to the well and with ugly oaths demanded of the boy his bucket to water their horses, when the saucy little imp winked the other eye and, boy fashion, started on his duty. Just then he heard the report of a gun and an unfamiliar hissing of a flying leaden missile close by; yet he walked on, but when the second report came and a ball tore through the rim of his wheat straw hat, he stopped short and not only turned over the pail, but lost no time in getting to the pump and working that lever for all it was worth until the innocent, faithful beasts and cruel, savage men were satisfied. In dismounting one of the men appeared crippled and in great pain, and he cursed with awful oaths. He rolled up his pantaloons and exhibited a badly swollen limb, which he bathed in the cold water. Before mounting their horses for departure, one of the men handed the lad a twenty-five cent scrip—for that was prior to specie payment and there was not yet any small silver money—and requested him to say nothing, which injunction was kept for twenty minutes. J. N. Miller, editor of the *Sac Sun* at that time, formerly

lived in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, where his brother, the late Dr. A. B. Miller, was the president of the Waynesburg College. Jim Miller was the stiffest-necked Cumberland Presbyterian that we ever knew, and the milk of human kindness was cold in his unemotional breast, so when the boy opened out with his story, Jim cut him short with a sarcastic Presbyterian grunt, which completely crushed the little lad. News then traveled slower than it does today, but a day or two later the daily papers came out with full reports of the great Northfield robbery, in Minnesota, telling of the capture of the Younger boys, and of the escape of the James boys on two white horses taken from a farmer in northern Iowa. Then the "printer's devil" was a lion among Sac City gamins for sixty days. The James boys were never captured, but ten years later than this event Bob Ford assassinated, in a most cowardly manner, in his home at Kansas City, Jesse James and received the large reward offered for his capture "dead or alive," by the governor of Missouri. Jesse was the lame man the boy had seen at the Sac City well where he was compelled to minister to the desperado's wants. Frank James is still living."

#### OIL AND MICA EXCITEMENT.

Quite an excitement prevailed in Sac county, especially in and near Grant City, in the nineties, when by accident there was discovered good indications that underlying that town there might be a paying quantity of both coal and oil, as well as a workable strata of mica. Mrs. Flora Atkins and her friend, a lady from Indiana, were on the banks of Coon river, near Grant City, fishing, and some little boys were running about and playing. The boys built a fire and were frying frogs near by when it was found that they were able to make a considerable fire by simply lighting what seemed to be black mud. The women asked the cause and were told that they could easily set fire to the mud, so the ladies began to investigate for themselves and it was soon learned that crude oil was filtering through the soil near the river and this set Mrs. Atkins to thinking about riches in an unexplored oil and coal field. She kept this a secret for about six years, when she finally let some into her secret and, after making several discoveries, set about leasing the mineral rights, until she had leased thousands of acres in the vicinity of Grant City. She had the minerals tested at various places and finally succeeded in getting parties in Des Moines interested, including state officer George Dobson. A company was formed, wells and shafts were sunk and considerable work done. These explorations were mostly on the Louis Lee farm. Representatives of the

Standard Oil Company were out and were much interested in the outcome and made liberal offers, it is said. Samples were sent to Cleveland and other points. A thirty-three-inch vein of coal was also found there, as well as pockets of fairly transparent mica, but it appears that upon working none of these minerals were found to be in sufficient quantities to work.

A little later, prospecting for coal and oil was carried on near Sac City, but all ended about the same way. Home capital was much interested and high hopes were at one time entertained of this agricultural county also becoming famous as a coal and oil district.

#### CYCLONE DAYS.

At the time of the great Pomeroy cyclone, July 6, 1893, Sac county was touched by the same electric wind storm and much property destroyed, but no lives reported lost. The *Early News* said of the storm in this county: "Barns, granaries, outbuildings, machine house of James Keck were all demolished. The Congregational church near Keck's was torn to splinters and the church organ and furniture destroyed. O. V. Jensen's farm in Cook township was struck and his granary was removed several rods. John Whetstine's farm was struck, every building on the farm swept clean away and several animals killed; the family went to a cellar and were thus saved. Loss, three thousand dollars. Fred Stephens' barn and other buildings were demolished, stock killed and many thousand dollars lost. The territory covered by the storm in this county was about four miles square. It hailed and blew terribly."

#### DROWNED AT WALL LAKE.

On May 23, 1893, while out fishing, a party of four, Robert and Bert Cory, the nephew, George Burgess, and Samuel Carson, were unfortunate. Upon having secured a good lot of fish they concluded to return to shore. The wind and rough water made it bad navigating the little sailing boat in which they had been fishing. Upon launching out to return, Carson slipped in the lake and, being cold and wet, concluded to walk home and knew not of the ill fate of the other three until the following morning when they had not returned. A party of searchers were sent out forthwith, and continued to search for two days, and finally found the bodies of Bert and Robert Cory, but George Burgess was not discovered until Monday following. It was a sad blow to the several families who were represented by the three drowned



men. This appears to have been the second case of drowning at Lake View in the history of the settlement.

In the month of June, about the 24th, 1907, occurred a terrible cyclone, originating in Boyer Valley township, at three o'clock in the afternoon. The farms injured most were those belonging to P. G. Weitzel and Thomas Hanson. This storm formed on the farm of N. Neilson in the northwest quarter of section 30, of Boyer Valley township. There were no lives lost among the settlers, but many animals killed.

#### TEMPERANCE SENTIMENTS.

Upon the assassination of Rev. George C. Haddock at Sioux City, in the summer of 1886, by the lawless saloon element of that city, there was held an indignation meeting at Sac City, in which the better element passed resolutions as follows:

"Whereas, according to the best evidence the death of Rev. George C. Haddock, of Sioux City, was the result of a deliberate conspiracy by saloon keepers of that city, to thus stop the enforcement of the prohibition law; therefore the people of Sac City, in mass meeting assembled, declare that this murder meets with our condemnation. It shows a spirit of lawlessness that is inimical to the spirit and best interests of the great state, the government and the home. It reveals the disreputable character of the men engaged in the liquor business; they are outlaws with whom the only proper way to deal is by the strong arm of the law, backed by the power of the state.

"That we are more than ever in favor of the total prohibition of the rum power; and to this cause we pledge our eternal fidelity; and for the enforcement of the laws we offer our hearty co-operation in every legitimate manner, even counting not our lives dear to us for the keeping good the honor of the state. That while the authorities of Sioux City are now using all endeavors to bring the guilty ones to justice, they should remember that their former toleration of the saloons of that city and the acquiescence of many of the leading citizens of the place, emboldened these assassins and led them to commit this unprovoked and dastardly crime. The only safety for Sioux City, as well as all cities in Iowa, is to fight the saloon to the death.

"We endorse the action of the state authorities in offering a reward for the detection of the murderers, and we stand ready to back them in using the power of the state, whenever and wherever needs be, to enforce the laws now on our statute books. And in this work all good citizens, regardless of party affiliations, should join.

"We tender the sincerest sympathies to the family of him who gave his life as a sacrifice to the cause of temperance and the enforcement of law, and we ask them to accept this accompanying gift as a slight testimonial of our feelings."

At the above meeting short speeches were made by C. E. Lane, Judge Early, Judge Criss, Levi Davis, Mr. Carter and editor J. N. Miller.

Sac county was early in the field of temperance work, as will be seen by an item in the local papers furnished in more recent years, by an old pioneer minister named Barnes, who was a circuit rider in northwestern Iowa in the latter part of the fifties (about 1858), in which he tells of the crusade work performed by his wife and Sac City ladies long before the work of Carrie Nation and Francis Willard had been thought of. It was on the occasion of one of the first, probably the very first, county fairs held here. A man came over from old Boonesboro (now Boone) and opened up a wagon containing whisky to sell to those who might come into the pioneer fair. He was doing quite a liquor business, although it was against the state laws. The winter before there had been a rousing religious revival and the ladies had been interested in the temperance movement, hence were now ready to strike a blow at this sort of law-breaking. A meeting was hurriedly called and the preacher's wife, though her husband was out on his circuit, concluded she would lead the crusade. Among the ladies to support her were Mrs. Eugene Criss and daughter, Mrs. Metcalf, Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. McFarland. Miss Criss, then a young vigorous woman, was appointed as one of the "ax-women." The unlawful liquor seller had gone to water his team and left exposed to view his liquor barrels. The women attacked his barrels and spilled the "spirits" on the ground. They were soon met by a party of the vendor's friends and a vigorous contest followed, but the ladies accomplished their purpose and quietly retired. The disgusted and highly-wrought-up liquor seller hitched up his team and departed for the east, followed by a wagon driven by Mr. Metcalf. The ladies all followed on, shouting, waving handkerchiefs and axes as they went forward.

When the grand jury met soon afterward, an attempt was made by a few whisky sympathizers in the village to have the ladies indicted and Rev. Barnes, the preacher, had in his possession in 1900 a copy of the proposed indictment against the crusaders, which was furnished the preacher and his good wife by Judge D. Carr Early, then clerk of the courts. It was highly prized, and it goes without saying that but a few on that grand jury voted to find a "true bill" against the fearless Christian workers.

## A FIFTY-YEAR-OLD MORTGAGE.

Singular as it may seem, the first real estate mortgage to be recorded in Sac county, away back in 1856, was not satisfied legally upon the face of the record for about a half century. The mortgage was given by William J. Wagoner, a pioneer, June 23, 1856, to T. J. Stone, later a prominent banker at Sioux City. It was on the northwest quarter of section 14, township 88, range 36, and was recorded on page one of book A of mortgages in Sac county. In 1905, Tait & Jackson, engaged to clear up titles of land in this county, discovered that this instrument had never been satisfied of record, though it had been paid when due, nearly fifty years before this discovery was made. Mr. Wagoner was in 1905 residing in Arkansas. T. J. Stone, the Sioux City banker, died and his son, Edward Stone, discovered that the mortgage had been paid and immediately adjusted the records as above stated. It had been an oversight on the part of that excellent pioneer banker of Sioux City, the president of the First National Bank of recent years.

## USING PEAT FOR FUEL.

In 1873 Charles H. Knight, residing three miles north of Sac City, discovered an extensive peat bed, specimens of which were brought to the city and tested and proved to be the genuine material. The item in the *Sun* at that time says: "There are hundreds of acres of land with this material underneath the surface. Two or three days' time will produce enough for a family's supply for the winter. It is just as good as coal, which costs six dollars a ton at the depot now. Here is a new source of wealth for our people if they will properly use it."

## DAYS OF MOURNING.

At the time of the assassination of President Lincoln there was not a large population in this county, but everyone mourned the death of Mr. Lincoln and a memorial service was held in the church.

In 1881, when President James A. Garfield was assassinated, the mayor in Sac City called the council together and planned for a memorial service to be held at the court house. The resolutions passed by the town council read as follows: "Whereas, our people with great unanimity desire to unitedly express their deep regret at the nation's loss; therefore, I respectfully recom-

mend that all places of business in Sac City be closed from 1:30 to 4:00 P. M. on said day and that the people assemble at the court house at two o'clock P. M., to participate in memorial services, expressive of our high regard for the stainless character and eminent services of the illustrious dead.

"By JOHN ALEXANDER,  
"Mayor."

A committee prepared the court house for the sad occasion. The entrance was draped and the flag placed at half-mast. With the assistance of the ladies the court room was tastily arranged. The judge's stand was draped in black and resting upon it were several vases of choice flowers. To the right on the wall was hung a draped picture of Abraham Lincoln; on the left was a picture of James A. Garfield; underneath the epigram, "God reigns and the government lives." Beyond this, opposite the space reserved for the Masonic fraternity, was an evergreen cross and crown, with the Knight Templar motto, "In Hoc Signo Vinces."

The court room was packed to overflowing. Rev. Foster spoke of Garfield's moral and religious life; James N. Miller, of the *Sun*, of his life as a soldier; Rev. Smylie, on Garfield the statesman; Judge Ed R. Duffie, on behalf of the Masonic fraternity.

#### GRANT'S DEATH—1885.

When the sad news of Gen. U. S. Grant's death was flashed over the wires to Sac City, in July, 1885, the bells were at once set tolling, conveying the intelligence to the community. Business houses were soon draped in heavy mourning. There was not the feeling of horror mingled with sadness that attended the death of Lincoln and Garfield, but only a quiet grief, tempered by the thought that the old hero had lived out his allotted days and that he was at rest, free from suffering.

Sac City Post No. 284, Grand Army of the Republic, held a special meeting and prepared for elaborate memorial services, which were held in the opera house. Rev. Smylie, of the Methodist Episcopal church, was selected as the orator of the occasion. At the hall, the post had draped the interior in a very impressive manner, and were assisted by Mrs. J. M. Woodward and Misses Anna Vogt, Anna and Lizzie Elwood, Blanche Goldsmith and Winnie Lane. In the center of the stage hung a beautiful floral motto, "His Work is Done." Beneath this, resting on a chair, was a fine portrait of Grant. In

front of the altar the flag and different emblems greeted the eye. Rev. Carter offered prayer and read the nineteenth Psalm, while Rev. Smylie delivered a very historic and touching oration. Before being dismissed, the audience adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas it has pleased the Grand Commander on high to call from our midst our beloved commander and statesman, Gen. U. S. Grant.

"Be it therefore resolved, that we bow in humble submission to His divine will.

"Be it further resolved, that in his death we have lost our great leader, who, called from civil life, commanded the largest armies, for the longest period, with the greatest success of any commander in modern times, never failing in leading his army to victory, unconditional for surrender, generous in his terms, determined on the field of battle for success at any sacrifice, yet magnanimous for peace at its close, stamping his genius and generalship upon the rolls of history; willing, nay anxious, to lay aside his sword and return to humble life as a civilian.

"Be it further resolved that, in respect to his memory, we shall ever revere the hall of Sac City Post No. 284, Grand Army of the Republic, and cause it to be draped in mourning for thirty days."

#### DEATH OF PRESIDENT M'KINLEY.

Four times have the people of Sac county been called to mourn deeply over the death of a President—three while in active service and once over the death of U. S. Grant. That is to say, public meetings have been held on the death of four who have been at the head of this government since the organization of Sac county.

On Sunday evening following the death of President McKinley, a union memorial service was held in Sac City. The program included speeches by Rev. W. Torbet, of the Methodist church, who spoke on "McKinley as a Man"; Rev. L. N. Call, of the Baptist church, "McKinley the President"; Rev. D. F. Snyder, of the Christian church, "McKinley as a Christian"; "Our Crisis," by Rev. A. H. Chittenden, pastor of the Presbyterian church, who was presiding officer of the memorial exercises.

#### DEATH OF U. S. SENATOR J. P. DOLLIVER.

At the Methodist Episcopal church at Sac City, on Sunday evening, February 11, 1911, just about his fifty-third birthday, occurred the memorial

services on the death of Senator J. P. Dolliver, which occurred at his Fort Dodge home in that month. Befitting remarks were offered by Hon. Charles L. Early on "Dolliver as a Statesman." Others spoke, including George B. Perkins, on "Dolliver the Citizen," "Dolliver the Man and Christian," by R. L. McCord, and "Dolliver as a Methodist," by Rev. Thomas Andrew, of the Methodist church.

#### WONDERFUL MINERAL HAILSTONES.

On March 25, 1901, there was a violent hail storm through this county, and about four or five miles to the northwest of Sac City the hailstones fell in wonderful quantities and in huge proportions. Some fell in the orchard of Philip H. Lewis, specimens of which he brought to Sac City and had them examined by experts and chemists, who determined that they were, in many instances, four pounds in weight. The more wonderful point about these hail stones was that they were of a mineral composition, strongly impregnated with salts. Tons of these large stones fell in a radius of a few miles, and the test showed that they had a sal soda taste and strongly alkali, but quite soluble, containing carbon, sodium, boron, and some calcium. Various were the theories advanced as to their origin. Some believed that particles of dust carried in the air from some alkaline plain may have caused them, while others argued that it was caused by contact with a flying meteor.

#### SNOW BLOCKADE OF 1880-81.

The *Sac Sun* of April 8, 1881, said: "Just two months today our railroad was blocked and has so remained, with the exception of a few days' time. Monday afternoon, at four o'clock, the nearly forgotten steam whistle was heard. A grand rush of men and curious boys started for the depot. It was a greater event to them than the first train that ever came to Sac City. The depot was thronged with people, whose faces were wreathed with smiles. An engine from the main line of the Northwestern brought up the train of several loaded cars. In all, fifty-three cars were in waiting to be brought up to Sac City. Our people feel like new men and women, and we can laugh and joke at the affair now."

## FORMING AN OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first call looking toward the organization of an old settlers' society in Sac county read as follows and was dated May 25, 1877: "There has been a good deal of talk about having an old settlers' association formed, but no decided action taken in the matter as yet. Now I will presume to appoint Eugene Criss and D. Carr Early, of Sac City, William Impson and Peter Basler, of Grant City, and M. S. Lee and Robert Quail, of Douglas township, a committee to come together at the call of Eugene Criss and make such arrangements for the call as they think best.

"WILLIAM CORY.

"Early, Iowa, May 21, 1877."

The matter rested until September 28th of the same year, when another call was sent out asking all persons who settled in this county prior to 1868 to become members of such an association. The chairman of the second meeting was Judge Criss and the secretary was William Cory. D. Carr Early was chosen president for the ensuing year and William Cory, secretary. At this first meeting among those who made remarks were Judge Criss, who stated, in substance.:

"I built the first cabin in Sac City and wintered here without any flour to eat. The thermometer went down to thirty degrees below zero. I arrived here in the summer of 1855. Leonard, Lemuel and John Austin and Mr. Cory had a little improvement here. I drove on to Sioux City, and was offered a full block of ground there free if I would come there and settle. I had seen the good mill site here in Sac City and so came back. I went on to Kansas, however, and, finding nothing out there, I came back and went to work. It was lonesome here, with but few neighbors and our cabin sometimes filled with Indians. We had a county seat fight and we won out. People were charitable and would really divide the last peck of corn meal with one another. Once the snow was four feet deep on the level and in the ravines drifted to a depth of thirty feet. When we wanted meat we went out and killed an elk. I once went down to Des Moines to secure something to eat, but finding nothing there, returned and we lived on potatoes the remainder of the winter. One December I went to Dubuque when the mercury stood twenty degrees below zero. Now we have plenty to eat and wear and a good county to live in."

Asa Platt said: "We were thirty-one days coming through to this



county. As soon as we arrived here in Sac City, all hands gathered around us to see if we had anything 'good to eat.' We had plenty of hard times when we first came here. No cash at first; we depended on what cash the non-residents sent on for their taxes. Judge Early was county treasurer and we would borrow money of him sometimes."

William Cory said: "I was only a child when coming here, but have watched the growth of the county from the day the first settler came in, which was twenty-three years ago. We made the first track from Fort Dodge to the Coon river. Ink-pa-du-tah was here with his band of Indians, some of which were in the great massacre at Spirit Lake in 1857. The first furrow was turned the next week after we arrived. Only seven settlers were here then. The next year Judge Criss and Judge Early came, and we thought we were getting crowded."

The association voted to hold the next meeting one year from the date of the first one and keep them up annually. The following list of pioneers was then made out by the secretary, the same showing the name, date of arrival in Sac county and the age of the person, at the time they signed this register in 1877:

William Montgomery, May 15, 1855, aged fifty-seven years.

D. Carr Early, May 5, 1856, aged forty-seven years.

Mrs. Early, May 5, 1856.

Peter Basler, February 1, 1856, sixty-four years.

Mrs. Mary Basler, February 1, 1856, sixty-three years.

Isabella Miller, September 7, 1854, fifty-seven years.

William Cory, September 7, 1854, thirty-six years.

Enoch Ross, May 16, 1856, fifty-three years.

Mrs. E. Ross, May 16, 1856, fifty-two years.

Eugene Criss, July, 1855, fifty-five years.

Mrs. Francis Criss, July, 1855.

J. G. Austin, September 8, 1854, forty-one years.

Asa Platt, October 15, 1858, forty-seven years.

Mrs. Asa Platt, October 15, 1858.

O. Whitney, August, 1857, forty-six years.

Mrs. Whitney, August, 1857, forty-three years.

John O. A. Wine, May 20, 1857, forty-nine years.

Mrs. Wine, May 20, 1857, fifty-four years.

Samuel Quail, July 29, 1856, fifty-six years.

W. R. Nevin, spring of 1863, fifty-two years.

Mrs. Nevin, spring of 1863, forty-two years.

A. Barney, fall of 1865, forty-five years.

Mrs. A. Barney, fall of 1865, thirty-seven years.

Robert Quail, June, 1856, fifty-four years.

Mrs. Robert Quail, June, 1856, fifty-one years.

W. B. Trout, May 7, 1867, thirty-three years.

From time to time there have been held numerous harvest home picnics and other old settler gatherings in this county. Perhaps an account of one of these gatherings will suffice to show the general spirit manifested on such annual occasions. We refer now to an account of an old settlers' picnic held in 1884 in the beautiful grove of H. A. Wilson, of Cook township, which was held on July 21st of that year. The account of this pleasant affair runs thus:

"The grove was a beautiful one, affording plenty of shade. Platforms had been well arranged beforehand, as well as plenty of comfortable seats and long tables in readiness for the loads of good things to eat. At eleven o'clock A. M. the audience was called to order by the vice-president and the opening exercises then followed. Judge E. Criss, the oldest settler then living in the county, made a fine address of welcome, in his characteristic manner. He recounted some of the early settlement privations and interesting incidents, as well as some of its genuine pleasures. The good Judge was in his usual happy vein and interested the people assembled very well. At the close of his speech an adjournment was had for dinner. The table groaned beneath the burden of good things brought to the grounds for dinner. It was soon devoured by the hungry horde of both old and young. After dinner the meeting was again called to order and speeches were delivered by James N. Miller, editor of the *Sac Sun*, Hon. W. W. Field, Rev. W. O. Thompson and County School Superintendent Martin. Mr. Johnson, aged ninety-four, also made remarks full of interest to all present. The speaking was interspersed by fine music by the choir and with band music by the Early Cornet Band. The writer left before the exercises concluded, thus avoiding a hard rain storm. We never attended a more enjoyable picnic and propose hereafter to be counted every year among the old settlers of Cook and Boyer Valley townships. The generous, unwearied hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson contributed largely to the enjoyment of the occasion."

In 1886 another picnic was held at Wilson's grove in Cook township, and that was well attended and all had a pleasant day. Mr. Wilson was the first to settle in Cook township and turned the first furrow and erected the

first house in the township. He planted a grove out and when this last picnic was held there it had grown to be large and shady, yet it was only fourteen years old. It stands still as a monument to his foresight and good sense.

At the time of the great and exciting Northfield, Minnesota, bank robbery by the James and Younger boys in the seventies, Frank James, on his return to Missouri, remained all night in the home of Mr. Granleys in the western part of Sac county, though probably unknown to the worthy settler, otherwise he might have had his share of the reward offered for the capture of that famous bandit and bank robber. James had his knee badly shot in the flight from Minnesota, and its pain caused him to swear a half hour at a time when he got up in the morning, just as though his cursing would do it any good. He was later captured by Pinkerton's detective force, and Jesse brought into close quarters.

#### WEATHER NOTES.

Thanksgiving day, 1876, was very cold in Sac county, the thermometer standing four degrees below zero. At Sac City the audience at the church was very small on account of the cold weather. Rev. Bryan, assisted by Rev. Adams, presided at the meeting.

On May 17, 1878, there was four or five inches of snow on the ground here. It commenced snowing and continued for three hours, leaving fully four inches until the next afternoon. The small fruit was badly injured, but wheat and strawberries and peas were protected by the snow and not materially injured.

#### HERDING HOGS IN SAC COUNTY.

The *Sun's* issue of April, 1877, carried this notice: "I will herd hogs the coming season for one dollar a head, the owner to furnish one bushel of corn per head to feed the hogs the first two or three weeks. I will herd three and a half miles southeast of Sac City. Salt furnished by me. Stock held for the herd bill. Season will commence May 1 and end September 1.

"G. H. JONES."

#### HERDING STOCK IN THE SEVENTIES.

The following was in the above files also: "We will herd cattle and horses this season on Camp creek, at the last year's grounds, three miles north of Elm Grove, six miles east of Sac City. Terms: Cattle, ninety cents a

head; colts, three dollars per head. Start to collect stock at Sac City, May 8th. Stock salted twice a week.

"DOTY BROS."

"Lake City, Iowa."

ROBBED AND MURDERED.

In May, 1876, one of the most cold-blooded and fiendish murders that the annals of crime ever recorded was committed on the banks of the Little Indian creek, in Jackson township, this county, at a point four miles west of Sac City. A resident named Freeman, with a few others who were coming into town, discovered and reported the horrible event. Sheriff Waddell, Coroner Brenton and many others visited the spot where the body of the man had been found. It lay just as it had fallen in death's struggle, a few yards north of the Boyer Valley and Sac City highway. A short distance from the pond stood an emigrant wagon and tied to it were two horses, and a third horse loose, but bridled, was near by. The wagon seat had been taken off and across it, with the head on one side on the ground and the feet on the other side, was stretched the form of the murdered man. On either side of the seat were pieces of the gun that had been the weapon with which the man had been killed. It had evidently been broken in a violent rage. A few feet to the west was a dry goods box in which were various articles and a small sheet-iron stove, such as are usually carried by emigrants. Coroner Brenton at once made up his jury, consisting of Orson Lee, D. M. Lamoreaux and J. E. N. Welch. They examined one witness, Daniel Koodzt, and found the following verdict: "We find the deceased came to his death by being shot with a single-barrel shot-gun, in the back of the head, by a party unknown, with intent of robbery."

The examination of the body revealed the fact that death, instant no doubt, was caused by a heavy charge from a shot gun, the muzzle of which could not have been over twelve inches away. The contents of the gun entered the back of the head about midway between the base and crown. The gun was freshly broken, and a light tuft of hair, corresponding to that of the dead man, was found in the lock end of the shattered gun-stock. The right pantaloons pocket was turned wrong side out. An old, well-worn pocket book was found in the grass close by, with a leather clasp torn off. It had been rifled of its contents. A watch key was found in his vest pocket, but no watch was found about his person. In other pockets were found a

knife, comb and some buttons. The man appeared to be about twenty-two years of age, rather tall, weight about one hundred and fifty pounds; light, fair complexion, with dark brown hair. He was well dressed in a dark frock coat, different colored pantaloons, and wore brown plow-shoes and a long worn cap. Close by was a diary in which was a photograph of the deceased, and on the fly-leaf was written: "Frank Eugene Carr, Riverside, Washington County, Iowa." The events and experiences of each day, including the Friday on which he was killed, May 26, 1876, were minutely recorded, including these entries: May 11, received \$10 from Palmer; May 12, sold four pigs for \$24; traded a sow for a watch; May 13, sold corn for \$8.80; bought an outfit for going West, \$11.86; blacksmithing, \$2.80. May 15, getting ready for the West; May 16, started for the West. May 26, traveling expenses, 13 cents."

He had been to Dakota and pre-empted a hundred acres of land and was going out to make the improvements on his land. He had less than fifteen dollars on his person at the time of his death. In the dry goods box were found powder, shot, clothing, tin-ware, photos, etc. In the wagon was a breaking-plow and a pair of good boots.

The remains were brought by the coroner to the court house at Sac City and placed in the basement. In the evening the body was carefully embalmed and placed on ice, and on Sunday placed in a coffin. The murdered man and his outfit had passed through Sac City on his way up the country, and was seen to have a companion along with him. They halted long enough to purchase some small article and passed on their journey toward Storm Lake.

Out at the farm of J. E. N. Welch they halted a while and Carr watered his horses and asked for some feed for the team, saying one of his horses was sick. Mrs. Welch urged them to remain all night on account of the animal's condition, but they refused to and went on, saying they would go till they reached a stream of water. Before going Carr paid one of the children a little money for the hay, as the woman would not charge for it. The man accompanying Carr asked the little girl first, and later Mrs. Welch, how far it was to Storm Lake or the nearest railway station, and she told him twenty miles. The Little Indian creek was finally reached and a suitable camping spot was selected, and they killed some wild game before dark. A single shot was heard in camp by the neighbors at about nine o'clock. After killing Carr the other man left the spot and was seen at 5:30 in the morning by a man named Young who was hitching up his team. This stranger told Young that he had been lost out on the prairie all night and asked the way

to Storm Lake, but it appears he went to Newell, to which place Wodell and Orson Lee went in pursuit, while Jerome Baxter and D. M. Lamoreaux went to Storm Lake. Telegrams were sent to points as far east as Waterloo and west to Sioux City. At Fonda a man was detained answering the full description of the man sought after by the sheriff. He was arrested and placed in irons and at midnight was brought back to Sac City and placed in jail. He there gave his name as Charles Collins (his real name was Lewis Monroe). He claimed he was from Black Hills and had gone broke there and sold his tools and bought a coat entirely too large for him. On Monday morning he was taken to the court room before John Alexander, a justice of the peace, and he was held for murder and bound over to the district court. He spurned counsel and said his real name was Lewis Monroe. He plead guilty and was sent to jail.

The *Sac Sun*, the local newspaper, said of him: "Lewis Monroe lives in Boone, Iowa, is married and is a butcher by trade; he was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; his father is a Scotchman and he complains of ill treatment at home and of an unwholesome training. He does not have a vicious look at all; he evidently has nerve, a sort of bull-dog neck and a determined rather than a malicious look."

He made a full confession before witnesses on Monday following the committing of the awful crime. This long confession contained such clauses as the following: "Left Boone May 24th on foot in search of work; at Jefferson the same day met Carr, who, being alone, asked him to go along with him for company. I only had forty-five cents; I accepted his invitation. Thursday at dinner some of my letters dropped from my pocket to the floor and he picked one up and began reading it. I told him it did not look well, but he said it made no difference; I then took it out of his hands; we had some words. At night had difficulty about the bed; both were mad; we quarreled all day following on the road from about twenty miles out of Sac City; called each other names. When we got to the creek at Sac City I went down to hand him up the water for his horses; I told him to come down and save me reaching up; he answered me short and I talked the same to him; he threw what water he had left in the pail and it struck me in the face; I rushed for him, clinched him; threw him down and struck him; he said he was only fooling; then I quit; I told him the first railroad station we came to I would leave him; did not stop in Sac long; two and a half miles west stopped and got water; asked lady how far it was to Storm Lake; we then went on two miles; I said, here is a good camping place. He swore at me and called me a



d———. I got mad and jumped off the wagon and walked up the hill. He called me back. I returned, unhitched, got supper. He had been drinking all day, partly whisky and partly alcohol. Ate supper—went on road thirty yards, sat down two minutes; went back; he was lying on the wagon seat with back towards me. I picked up the gun and said, You d——— of a b———, I will shoot you anyhow, and shot him, and threw the gun at him, hitting his head. He rolled off the seat; I took his watch and pocket book containing eleven dollars—a ten dollar bill, a fifty cent piece and two quarters. I put on his coat and shirt, bridled the cream horse and took a quilt. At two hundred yards threw the quilt away; rode three-fourths of a mile east on the road, then went on foot till twelve o'clock; dozed till three o'clock; started for Storm Lake, as I supposed; saw a man harnessing his team; asked him how far it was to Storm Lake or the nearest railroad station."

The trial came off before Judge Ed. R. Duffie, and the jury found a verdict of "guilty of manslaughter," and the court sentenced him to fifteen years at hard labor in the state's penitentiary and assessed the costs in the case up to him. The court room scene was one of the most dramatic ever witnessed in Sac county, the room being filled with both men and women.

William Tool, who murdered his wife in cold blood, at Sac City, in 1894, was tried before Judge Church, and prosecuted by County Attorney Tait, receiving a life sentence at hard labor at Anamosa. The act was committed while in a family quarrel.

#### GRAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

A great celebration was held at Sac City, on July 4, 1876—the nation's centennial year. By ten o'clock the procession formed, headed by the "Car of State," filled with thirty-eight beautiful young ladies (one for each state in the Union), with the Goddess of Liberty in their midst and a Revolutionary patriot as a driver. Following were hundreds of vehicles and footmen. The procession proceeded to the grove, where an ample platform had been built. The frequent showers throughout the day somewhat retarded the exercises. The orations were by A. L. Smith, Esq., and Joseph Dobson. The "Press" was represented in a speech by J. N. Miller, of the *Sun*; the "Pulpit" by Rev. J. T. Barr, of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the afternoon a baseball game was pulled off between Newell and Sac City, and the score stood fifty-eight to nineteen in favor of Newell. There were over a



thousand persons on the ground that day and a big dance was held at which there were a hundred and eleven couples. Fireworks were set off in the darkness of the evening.

## REGISTERED FARM NAMES.

The Legislature of Iowa, in the session of 1910-11, passed an act allowing owners of farms and lots in the state to register or record a name for their holdings, no other name of its kind to be allowed within the county. This name is recorded in a book kept for the purpose in the recorder's office, the fee being one dollar a farm, and the description occupies a half page of the record book, giving name agreed upon and a minute description of land, etc. When the land is transferred the name is sold with the property, unless otherwise stipulated in the deed. Up to April 14, 1913, there had been seventy-seven Sac county farms and tracts of land, of more or less acreage, named, and the following gives the owner's name, the farm registered name and the township in which it is situated:

William G. Hadley was first to register in the county, his farm in Delaware township being named "Pleasant View." Then follows:

Wall Lake Township—"Walnut Grove," O. F. Westrom; "Sunny Slope Stock Farm," Alice B. Broughton; "Pioneer Dairy Farm," C. M. Steward; "Prairie View Farm," Samuel A. Swanson; "Sunny Vale Stock Farm," J. P. Threkelsen; "Grand View," E. W. Scott; "Cherry Hill Farm," Anna S. Peterson; "Maple Leaf Stock Farm," Henry Gates; "Elkhorn Point Stock Farm," D. Corderman.

Delaware Township—"Pleasant View," W. G. Hadley; "Meritdale," A. H. Hinde; "Maple Grove," W. T. Scott; "Glenwood Farm," W. L. Lewis; "Prairie Queen," Frank Lamoreaux; "Homewood Farm," M. L. Lewis.

Clinton Township—"West Riverside," Will Drury; "Ash Lawn," M. D. Fox; "Fairacres," Lewis T. Quirk; "Sunny Side Stock Farm," M. A. McWilliams; "Hill Crest Farm," O. C. Fuchs; "River View Stock Farm," John Fuchs; "The Grange," F. L. Manly; "Waveland Stock Farm," John D. Oldson; "Midway Farm," Bert B. Buihner; "Indian Creek Farm," Charles Goode-now; "Greenwood Stock Farm," Benjamin Gilbert; "Larchwood Stock Farm," Charles Manly; "Millside Farm," John Fuchs; "South View Farm," William J. Stock; "Brook View Farm," Albert S. Teaquart.

Cedar Township—"Sunny Side," Harry Baxter; "Orchard Hill Farm,"

R. M. Long; "Everdale Farm," C. S. Darling; "Cedar Hill Stock Farm," William Peters; "Fairmont Farm," B. F. Cullenbaugh.

Jackson Township—"Fairview Stock Farm," James T. Dollison; "The Pines," Mary E. Vrooman; "Greenwood," L. E. Fitch; "Oakland Spring Farm," William Pitstick; "Larchwood Hill," Earl S. Shaw; "Oak Lawn Shorthorn Farm," F. I. Howard; "Pinehurst," Ira S. Martin; Sac City Nursery.

Boyer Valley Township—"Cloverdale," William P. Gard; "Helendale Stock Farm," John Reiff, Jr.; "Wayside Farm," James McCormick; "Clover Hill Farm," Charles F. Keister.

Douglas Township—"Evergreen Stock Farm," R. J. Paeper; "Echo Farm," Webster Heath; "Wildwood Park," D. B. and C. L. Keir.

Levey Township—"Brookside Stock Farm," Thomas Quirk; "Riverside Stock Farm," F. W. Weed; "Pleasant Hollow Farm," A. Ballman; "Rose Valley Stock Farm," John H. Gosch.

Wheeler Township—"Fairview Farm," E. A. Lundberg; "Pleasant Valley Stock Farm," Carl Prestin; "Pleasant Hill Farm," B. A. Samuelson; "Lawn Hill," C. Albert Peterson; "Maple Grove Stock Farm," L. L. Goreham; "Glendale Farm," Charles W. Ballard; "Fairhope Farm," E. E. Goreham; "Brookdale Stock Farm," A. E. Johnson; "Forest Hill Stock Farm," A. E. Johnson; "Meadow Brook Farm," J. B. Johnson.

Coon Valley Township—"Sunny Slope," John H. Hechtner; "Farmland," Charles Hechtner; "Grand View Stock Farm," A. W. LaPort; "Plain View Farm," Albert Ruschko; "Eureka Stock Farm," A. D. Miner; "Never-Fail Farm," William Pitstick; "Harmony Ridge Farm," W. C. Abney.

Cook Township—"Lookout Farm," George Miller.

Sac Township—"Sunny Oak Grove Stock Farm," Charles F. Garnatz; "Whiteside Farm," P. U. Pratt.

Viola Township—"Prairie Vale," John Spurrell.

Eden Township—"Hillside Farm," Phil C. Hein.

Eureka Township—"Valley View Stock Farm," D. Rininger & Son.

#### EARLY-DAY PRAIRIE FIRES.

There has always been a charm about the broad expanse of prairie in the West, and it is hard to describe—one must behold the beauty of the landscape, the waving wild grass, the spring and summer flowers, including our own "state flower," the wild rose and the feathery golden rod, the national flower, that needs no care to sow its seed or make its blossom yield. The

wild game, such as prairie chickens, geese, sand-hill cranes, ducks and a score more birds, utilized for meat by the hardy pioneers, all came in for their annual attraction to residents and to foreign hunters. But we come now to speak of a scene in golden autumn time, after the frosts had cut their heavy swath and left the sure marks of death and decay on every hand; when the "last rose of summer was left withered and strewn"—there came a scene, a more magnificent spectacle than all. We refer to the burning prairie at night time.

The wild wind like a sower sows  
The ground with sparkles red,  
And the flapping wings of bats and crows  
Through the ashes overhead,  
And the bellowing deer and the hissing snake—  
What a swirl of terrible sounds they make!

It was a common, almost yearly, sight when the vast, limitless sea of amber-tinted grass was burning continuously for twenty miles and more, fanned and pressed speedily forward by a high wind. The scene on a moonless night time, in October, indeed was grand, and beggars description with pen or tongue—it must needs be seen to be appreciated. It appears like a vast army mowing down solid columns of an enemy. The rank grown weeds ignite and explode, causing a crackling sound not unlike that of musketry on a field of strife. The lurid light from the leaping tongues of fire cast a tinted reflection on the dark sky which no painter can hope to reproduce. But while the burning prairie has had its charms and been sung by poets, yet to the early pioneer its romantic scene was somewhat darkened by the annual loss of much valuable property. An army on parade at the grand encampment review looks beautiful, but the active service—the field of carnage—gives no pleasure. So it must be said of the prairie fires of northwestern Iowa, which perhaps originated by some homesteader burning a "fire-guard" around his little home of a calm autumn night, when all nature seemed at rest, but before the work of home protection had been accomplished not unfrequently the gentle breeze grew to a steady wind, which rapidly increased in its velocity, carrying now and then a burning spear of grass to some remote part of the prairie land, until before an hour had elapsed a dozen or twenty separate fires had been kindled, and before the morning dawn the irrepressible flames had wrought dire calamity over a whole county, and perhaps, with a high wind, was still proudly marching over the territory of another. The midnight scene

was of surpassing beauty and sublime grandeur, but the burned district presented a sad picture at the dawn. At sunset a little settlement were feeding their stock, the happy home made merry by the innocent shouts of gleeful children romping about the humble cabin or claim shanty. At sunrise the following morning there might have been seen a half dozen homes. The tall, rank-killed, frost-smitten grass had been as if by magic wand turned into blackened ashes, and the house of the homesteader had been consumed with all of its highly prized contents. A score of half-clad children were left out in a merciless sea of prairie ashes. The sun, obscured, and the chilling atmosphere foretold of the snow storm sure to come. The grain and the hay the industrious farmer had secured by the hardest of toil had been also reduced to ashes and smouldering embers, the smoke of which might have been seen for miles over an expanse of prairie the surface of which was barren and black. Many of the early settlers lost all their grain and hay, while some mourned, not alone the loss of hard labor performed, but also the loss of dear ones from out the family circle, who had been taken unawares by a change of wind and had no time to escape until their clothing caught fire. There is not a county in all western or central Iowa but what can furnish facts for a chapter of prairie fires which would chill one's blood at the terrible recital of havoc from 1855 to 1876. Sac county has many an interesting story of these terrible fires, mention of which may be seen elsewhere in this volume.

To indicate to the reader how these prairie fires looked to an Eastern newspaper correspondent, who sent his weekly letters from western Iowa in the sixties and seventies, some of which were mailed from Sac and Ida counties, we quote the following from his New York daily:

"The prairies, indeed, were a grand sight—in the summer, 'clothed in verdure green;' in the fall, in that color that too well tells of the departing years. If a grand sight to see the prairies, as the tall grass waved to and fro, it was a magnificent sight, in the fall of the year, to see the annual prairie fire as it sweeps over all. Whilst enjoying the sublimity of the scene, night threw her mantle o'er the earth, and the sentinel stars set their watch in the skies, when suddenly the scene was lighted by a blaze of light, illuminating every object around. It was the prairie fire. Language cannot convey, words cannot express to you the faintest idea of the grandeur and splendor of that mighty conflagration. Methought that the pale Queen of Night, disclaiming to take her accustomed place in the heavens, had dispatched ten thousand messengers to light their torches at the altar of the

setting sun, and that now they were speeding on the wings of the wind to their appointed stations."

Section 3889 of the 1871 Code of Iowa provided as follows: "If any person wilfully, or without using proper caution, set fire to and burn or cause to be burnt, any prairie or timbered land by which the property of another is injured or destroyed, he shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisoned in the county jail not more than one year, or both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court."

The November 12, 1875, issue of the *Sac Sun* said: "The horizon is lighted up nights with the glare of long rows of burning prairie grass. As yet we have heard of but one case of damages. A wad from the gun of E. M. Powers lighted a fire on the Boyer river country which burned a lot of hay and rubbed several houses closely."

As late as April 15, 1887, the *Sun* speaks of prairie fires in the county in the following words: "Sparks from a locomotive of the Northwestern railroad set the prairie on fire west of Sac City last Friday and the strong wind carried it into Douglas and Delaware townships. A large amount of hay was burnt, and it was only by a tremendous exertion that the fire was stopped. The railroad company will have a heavy damage to pay for this loss.

"On last Saturday L. Francisco set out fire on his place in Douglas township which soon escaped his control. It reached the house of William Buss, burning it to the ground, with his stacks of hay, stables, cribs, grain and some live stock. Mr. Buss was burned some and his boy quite seriously. The house north of Mr. Buss was also burned. He is an old man, and the loss will fall heavily upon him. Auburn narrowly escaped destruction on Saturday, too, from fire set in the same manner. The code makes it a heavy penalty for setting out fires and letting them get away from the parties setting them out. The wind last week was too high to attempt to burn prairie about one's premises."

#### EARLY-DAY BLIZZARD.

In the autumn of 1861 two brothers named Leighton (Layton), aged seventeen and twenty-one years, came here from Illinois and began trapping on the Little Indian. On the morning of February 22, 1862, they started out on an elk hunt and followed some elk west of the Boyer river, which runs through the western part of Sac county. The day was mild and they were thinly clad. The snow was a full foot or more deep on the level. It melted some through the middle of the day. About four o'clock in the afternoon a

severe change came up suddenly. At once it became intensely cold and a fearful and savage wind came up. The next day the Leightons were both missing and for sixteen days the neighbors looked in vain for the men. On the seventeenth day their bodies were discovered—the younger of the two brothers about one mile from his home, with his right arm outstretched and his hat and hatchet thrown on ahead, as if he had fallen while running, exhausted by cold and fatigue. The elder brother was found about four miles from the cabin, lying on his back with his hat folded and placed beneath his head. This had evidently been done by his brother, after he had fallen down, frozen and exhausted. The following spring, in the month of April, their two guns were found. They had been carefully oiled before they had been left and two-quarters of an elk were piled on top of them, proving that they had at least killed one elk.

#### SAC COUNTY'S WOMEN MACHINISTS.

Sac county has the distinction of producing two unique lady machinists. The following is from the *Des Moines Register-Leader*: "Iola, Kansas, October 13, 1911—What is probably the most unique and successful machine shop in the world is the Minder plant at Gas City, in Kansas. The fact that the shop is operated by two girls, who actually do the largest share of the work, from choice rather than a necessity, is not so important to their patrons as the fact that their work is the best that can be produced in the country. There is nothing within the range of a modern machine shop that these two girls cannot do. Their names are Susie and Emma Minder; their ages are, respectively, twenty-four and twenty-two years. They recently completed, through their own skill and efforts, a four-cylinder gasoline engine, constructed from the moulten metal to the finished product throughout. Difficult repairs which perplex the ordinary mechanic are apparently done by these girls with ease."

The Minder family came to Sac City from Garfield township, Calhoun county, Iowa, in about 1889, lived at Sac City ten years. The father was Fred Minder, an excellent machinist, who ran a shop on the present greenhouse site, near the Northwestern depot.

#### AUTUMN FROSTS IN WESTERN IOWA.

The Iowa weather bureau says of the first and killing frosts in western Iowa:

Year.	Month and Day of First Frost.	Month and Day of Killing Frost.
1879	September 8	September 24
1880	September 9	November 7
1881	October 18	November 9
1882	September 23	November 11
1883	September 9	October 20
1884	October 9	October 23
1885	October 4	October 4
1886	September 17	October 1
1887	September 23	October 24
1888	September 15	September 29
1889	September 16	September 27
1890	September 13	September 13
1891	September 3	October 5
1892	September 14	October 9
1893	September 16	September 25
1894	September 18	October 14
1895	September 23	September 30
1896	September 19	September 28
1897	October 9	October 29
1898	October 14	October 14
1899	September 20	September 29
1900	September 17	October 8
1901	September 17	October 4
1902	September 18	October 14
1903	September 23	October 18
1904	September 12	October 22
1905	October 12	October 12
1906	August 27	October 10
1907	September 22	September 28
1908	September 28	October 12
1909	September 23	October 12

## WEATHER RECORDS OF SAC COUNTY.

From the records kept at Des Moines by the Iowa weather and crop bureau, with Dr. George M. Chappel as forecaster, under authority of the



United States government service, the following is found concerning Sac county weather for the term of years named:

Sac is in what is known as the western central district of observations, and includes the counties of Sac, Ida, Woodbury, Monina, Crawford, Carroll, Audubon, Shelby and Harrison. The mean average temperature for this district is 47.1 degrees; average annual precipitation, 29.36 of an inch. Average yield of corn, 31 bushels per acre. In Sac county meteorological records have been compiled at Sac City, Grant City and Odebolt. Altitude of Sac City, 1,278 feet; Odebolt, 1,356 feet. Grant City was first to have observations recorded and their record runs back to 1869. The record at Odebolt commenced in 1898. At Sac City is begun in 1876.

Of the maximum and minimum temperature in Sac county for the years from and including 1899 to 1913, the records show as follows:

The lowest temperature in 1899 was January and February—29 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1900 was February—17 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1901 was December—22 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1902 was January—21 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1903 was February—17 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1904 was January—26 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1905 was February—28 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1906 was February—17 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1907 was January—16 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1908 was January—11 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1909 was December—17 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1910 was January—17 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1911 was January—25 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1912 was January—35 below zero.

The lowest temperature in 1913 was March—16 below zero.

The highest temperature for the above years was in the order the years run, as follows: 1899, 98 degrees; 1900, 94 degrees; 1901, 108 degrees; 1902, 94 degrees; 1903, 95 degrees; 1904, 94 degrees; 1905, 93 degrees; 1906, 92 degrees; 1907, 93 degrees; 1908, same; 1909, 94 degrees; 1910, 96 degrees; 1911, 100 degrees; 1912, 99 degrees; 1913, 99 degrees above zero.

Thus it will be observed that the lowest temperature since 1898 was, in the month of January, 1912, 35 degrees below zero, while the hottest temperature in that period was in July, 1901, when it was 108 degrees above zero.

The annual mean temperature for these years has been about 46 degrees above zero; 48.7 degrees was the highest mean temperature for the above period.

#### RAINS AND MELTED SNOW.

From the tables at hand the following are the figures for the rain and its equivalent in melted snows since 1869 in Sac county. These are totals for the years indicated: 1869, 39 inches; 1870, 25 inches; 1871, 28 inches; 1872, 24 inches; 1876, 40.4 inches; 1877, 29.1 inches; 1878, 31.6 inches; 1879, 20.5 inches; 1880, 23.21 inches; 1883, 27.4 inches; 1884, 34 inches; 1887, 29.5 inches. Averages, 29.28 inches, up to the last date noted.

For the year succeeding, the figures are: 1889, 28 inches; 1890, 23 inches; 1891, 28 inches; 1892, 24 inches; 1894, 29 inches; 1895, 31.5 inches; 1896, 38.80 inches; 1897, 22 inches; 1898, 28 inches; 1900, 34 inches; 1901, 25 inches; 1902, 42 inches. From 1909 to present time the figures are: 1910, 15 inches; 1911, 33 inches; 1912, 30 inches; 1913, 27 inches. Average for last period, 30.61 inches.

Perhaps the heaviest snowfall in Sac county occurred in the winter of 1856-57, when it is said that three feet and seven inches of snow mantled this county on the level and at no time for one hundred days did it thaw sufficient to form icicles. In many places in the ravines the snow was thirty feet deep, and crusted hard enough, toward spring, to hold a loaded sled and team.

The government reports and observations of the snow fall in this locality are in no wise complete. They do show, however, that the greater depths of snow since 1900 were 31 inches in 1901; 21 inches in 1902; 31 inches in 1906; 50 inches in 1911; 56 inches in 1912. Of course it will be understood that this snow was not all on the ground at one time, as it was in 1856-57.

#### THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

Among all the hardships put upon the settlers in Sac county in its earlier history, the worst was the great scourge inflicted by the several annual appearances of locusts or grasshoppers, which insects first made their appearance in 1875, and continued several years throughout northwestern Iowa, including Sac county. Much could be written concerning these little "cusses" that destroyed much the farmer tried to raise.

In order to give a better understanding of this subject it has been thought wise upon the part of the author to simply take extracts from the *Sac Sun*

and other papers along that line, just as the events transpired, as such items show how little the people at first knew concerning the grasshopper and how many schemes were tried in order to get rid of the winged pests, which in some cases were so thick, in adjoining counties, that they fell into railroad cuts and filled the space between the ties to such a depth that freight trains were actually stopped in Cherokee county in 1877. The wheels of the engine would slip on the rails beneath the mass of crushed insects, in the same manner that they would had the rails been treated to a coat of grease. At times the sun was actually darkened at noontime, so dense a cloud did they make in passing south. They seemed to know which direction they wanted to go and waited till the wind was most favorable, then struck out, the meantime eating themselves full of all kinds of vegetation that chanced to be growing in their pathway. They were an object of legislation on the part of the county, state and nation—but all to no purpose. When they got ready to leave Iowa they simply unfolded their wings and hied themselves away.

The *Sac City Sun* of August 4, 1876, said: "The dreaded insects are now in southeast Dakota and northwestern Iowa. So far they are one hundred miles away, and we hope their distance may be increased. They could not do great damage if they did come now."

August 11, 1876: "Last Saturday the grasshoppers were seen flying south over this town. Some of them settled down about six miles north of town. Monday they were noticed going back north. So far they have attacked but a few fields in Sac county and not much damage has been done."

August 25, 1876: "Like the man with the seven-year itch, we've got 'em sure. Friday last a clear sky and a moderately stiff wind from the north brought the locusts in great numbers. The air was filled with them and probably enough passed over to have covered the earth a foot deep had they all alighted. As it is, we have enough to eat considerable grain. If they had come a month earlier it would have been much worse, but our small grains were saved and corn is pretty well along. Farmers and all others looked blue, at first, but this feeling soon gave way when it was found that they were not so dreadful a thing after all. At Uncle Jim Miller's they ate all of his tobacco crop up and then squirted the juice in his face, as he attempted to 'shoo' them away! We notice they do not eat evergreens. Reports say they have reached the Mississippi river. Phil Schaller says they have destroyed ten per cent. of the corn around Storm Lake."

September 1, 1876: "For three days last week the wind blew from the northwest, which carried away most of the grasshoppers, but a few are still

with us. The greatest fear is for the damage that may be done next year. They are still hovering over parts of Sac county in goodly numbers."

September 8, 1876: "Last Thursday a brisk wind carried nearly all of the grasshoppers away. Farmers throughout this and adjoining counties should attend the mass-meeting at the court house next Saturday, looking towards means of systematic and concerted action against these pests."

September 22, 1876: "Grasshopper Meeting—Last Saturday at the court house only a few persons were present. An organization was perfected, with Washington Allen as its president, and vice-presidents as follows: Douglas township, George Dobson; Delaware township, H. A. Pierce; Eden township, C. E. Lane; Eureka township, A. B. Holmes; Boyer Valley township, William Cory; Wall Lake, A. E. Forsyth; Clinton township, C. L. Sherwood; Sac township, ——— Basler; Viola township, William V. Lamoreaux; Levey township, James Taylor; Wheeler township, John Bruce. The president was instructed to procure posters warning persons against setting out prairie fires, under penalty of the law. It is expected of the vice-presidents that they effect organizations in their respective townships and endeavor to carry out this resolution, as set forth in the following words:

"Resolved, That we petition the county boards of supervisors of Sac, Ida and Crawford counties, to enact a fine of fifty dollars in addition to that imposed by the state, and if prairie fires are set before May 15, 1877, or at the most suitable time to destroy the grasshoppers.

"Resolved, That we petition the government to appropriate money to pay bounty for destroying the grasshoppers.

"Resolved, That we urge upon the good citizens of the above named counties to take steps to enforce these regulations, concerning the burning of prairies before another spring."

"Steps will be taken by the grasshopper brigade to watch the prairies this fall to see that no one sets fire out, and if so that the parties so doing will be punished. Also that we will not kill prairie chickens, or any other kind of birds that eat grasshoppers, and that we forbid all parties from killing on our premises."

September 15, 1876: "Daniel G. Lane, who has lived in the West Indies, writes to prevent grasshoppers destroying vegetation, 'burn one pound of charcoal in the center of the field.' Also to prevent potato bugs, plant two grains of flax seed in each hill, as the bugs will not go near the flax."

February 23, 1877: "The opinion of people regarding grasshoppers and the time when fires should be set out to kill most of the eggs, differs greatly.

Some favor an early burning, in order to kill the most. Others think it should be later so as not to kill the chances for a good hatch of prairie chickens. Of course the chickens would destroy hoppers and be good to use for food, but to take chances is hardly prudent. The trouble is it cannot be determined what time the insects really hatch out themselves. We can only wait and see. But in the meantime, some may be burning, and to do this all should burn at once. Will it not be a good plan to have a meeting of the owners of farms—the association that was formed last fall; we believe Judge Early was president of the association. It will not do to remain idle. Now while the ground is frozen we may lull ourselves into a fancied security and think it will all come out right. The fact is we must get ready to fight the enemy."

March 30, 1877: "Washington Allen, one of Sac county's best farmers, has invented a machine for catching grasshoppers by the wholesale and, from what we have seen of it, believe it the best yet conceived of. It is easily made, consisting of a long box, resting on low runners, like a sled, to be drawn by two horses. In front, sloping down to the ground, is an apron upon which the hoppers will alight as they may be scared up from the earth, and from that they are carried to the back part of the machine, where they fall through sloping holes into a box. When this is full they can be stupified by throwing cold water upon them, and then shoveled out and destroyed. Mr. Allen has applied for letters patent (later he received one) and will make the machines and sell township rights. He is well-known and trusty, and we advise none to purchase elsewhere till first they have tested this machine. If every farmer in Sac county and adjoining ones should provide themselves with such a machine and go to work when the time comes, something might be done to destroy them."

Later an advertisement appeared for this machine, which was known as "Allen's Grasshopper Exterminator." Another party here claimed he was the inventor of some part of this machine and trouble arose as to the rights of the two parties.

May 11, 1877: "Burning Prairie—Monday was the day set for commencing to burn off the Sac county prairies to kill the grasshoppers and the eggs of the same. It was rather damp and not good to set fire, but Tuesday was better and we hope that 999,777,555,333,111 grasshoppers were killed, but we hardly think they were!"

May 11, 1877: "There is no disguising the fact that in spots grasshoppers in Sac county are exceedingly thick. We urge upon everyone interested to exterminate all they possibly can. They seem gathered in local

bunches and by spreading straw at such points they can be collected at night and then burned in the early morning. If there was a concerted action in this matter, there would not be enough left to eat up an onion patch. It is all right to pray God to send them away from us, but he works by means, and after you are done praying, go to work with all your might and fight them with the sword of fire and hew them from Dan to Beersheba. Then we may enter the proud land of milk and honey."

June 15, 1877: The county supervisors passed resolutions to allow certain bounty or reward for all grasshoppers destroyed in Sac county, but before the resolution went into effect it was recalled or repealed. The *Sun*, in speaking of this feature, remarked: "They acted well, but not wisely, and so they had better recall the act. First, it was illegal. The board had no authority to pay out funds for such purposes. Second, it would have done but little good for one county to act alone in the matter. Third, there would probably have been claims presented to the amount of fifty thousand dollars. County warrants would have been issued at fifty cents on the dollar, thus yielding the farmers twenty-five thousand dollars and those who bought the warrants another twenty-five thousand dollars. The county would have had a debt of fifty thousand dollars and five thousand dollars a year interest, running possibly ten years."

## CHAPTER XX.

REMINISCENCES BY LOCAL WRITERS.

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### THE SAGACITY OF A DOG.

By C. Everett Lee.

During the fall of 1868 two men, whose names we cannot now recall, came to Sac City from Illinois and put up at a hotel operated by C. E. Read and located on the ground now occupied by the Fox hardware store. They had left their home state with a view of putting in the winter trapping and after looking over the ground decided to locate on the Maple, nearly due west of where Alta now stands. They proceeded to buy lumber, provisions and traps and hired a party to take them to the place where they had decided to locate for the winter.

After getting their "dug out" about completed and needing more material and provisions, they decided to pull out on foot for Sac City with a view of buying enough of the necessaries to do them until spring, their only companion being a large black and white spotted dog which they had brought with them from Illinois. The morning they started out the weather was beautiful and gave promise of a pleasant trip for them, but, after passing over the dividing ridge, a blizzard, such as was seldom seen even in those days, came sweeping down from the northwest and before they hardly had time to realize what had happened they were completely bewildered, and wanderers on a bleak prairie. They continued to travel until some time in the night when, for protection, they dug a deep hole in the snow and, with the dog, crawled inside and let the snow drift over them. Some time next morning the one who owned the dog shook the other and told him to get up and try and find a place of safety. He, not crawling out at once, suddenly awoke with a start to find himself alone, the partner and the dog evidently having crawled out when he spoke to him. He immediately crawled out and, after calling for his partner several times and getting no answer, pulled out alone. He traveled all day and when darkness set in discovered a light in the distance and started for it as best he could, but before reaching the place he



fell down and was compelled to crawl on his hands and knees for nearly a mile before he got near enough for his call to be heard by John T. Alexander, who had settled on the prairie about nine miles north of Sac City the year before. He was carried in and cared for by Mr. Alexander, but was quite badly frozen and eventually lost several of his fingers and toes.

The second day after the blizzard had cleared up, several men were sitting in the hotel in Sac City when someone opened the door and in bounced the dog belonging to the man who had a short time before gone to the Maple to trap. He rushed up to Mr. Read and getting him by the coat, commenced to whine and pull towards the door. Mr. Read, not at first realizing what dog it was, went to the door and kicked the animal out in the street. The conversation then turned upon the dog and as soon as those present realized what dog it was, they were sure something had happened his master and that he had come for assistance. Mr. Read then put on his coat and, starting out, followed the dog until he came to the home of Addison Lee, the farm where Frank Howard now lives, when he saw Mr. Lee in his barnyard doing his chores. Mr. Read called him out to the road and informed him what the dog had done and to whom he belonged. Mr. Lee saddled one of his best saddle horses and as soon as he rode out in the road, the dog, which had been trying to get Mr. Read along with him by pulling on his coat, immediately started north with Mr. Lee after him. At this time there was but one trail leading from Sac City to Storm Lake and that went north on the east side of the river until it reached what is now known as the Low farm, where it crossed the river and took a northwest direction to the west end of the lake where the inlet came in and where all the camping and fishing was done. When the dog came to the river he crossed and struck the trail at a pretty swift gait. Mr. Lee, who was a brother of the writer, not knowing how far he would be compelled to go with the dog, slackened his pace after crossing the river and when the dog would go down in a hollow out of sight he would turn back and run to the top of a knoll and jump up to see if he was still being followed. This gait was kept up until the west end of Storm lake was reached and the man found lying in the snow, frozen to death, and with a path beaten around him where the faithful friend had probably walked around the body a thousand or more times before giving up and going to Sac City, twenty-eight miles, for assistance.

Parties were sent out from Sac City who brought the body there and buried it, Mr. Lee retaining possession of the dog, which he kept until he died from old age.

## STORM AND FLOOD—PIONEER BOY'S REMINISCENCE.

[The following is from the pen of a Methodist minister, Rev. H. P. Dudley, who at the time was living in Carroll and whose father was one of the pioneer ministers in Sac county, residing at Grant City. This article was published in the *Sun* in 1913 and is full of enough interest and merit to be preserved in the annals of the county.]

The principal natural event in the western hemisphere during the year 1869 was the total eclipse of the sun in the month of August. I saw with my own eyes for one awe-inspiring moment the polar streams and the magnificent corona of the sun. This seems to fix in mind the date of more local and less important natural phenomena of the memorable year. It was in Grant City, the little inland village that nestled beneath the great oaks and elms on the banks of the Coon, in the southern part of Big Grove, Sac county, Iowa. Here, as a child we listened to the mournful mourning of the woods, or the deep diapason of the ceaseless roar which betokens a tempest. The rush of the waters over the rapids, the liquid notes of bobolink and meadow lark, the evening call of the sad noted whippoorwill, the rain crow and turtle dove, the drumming of the large flocks of prairie chickens, the pounding of the swift-winged pheasant and the pilating call of flocks of wild geese and other birds of passage were all familiar sounds. Yes, the place had its own peculiar music. For Big Grove, composed of some thousand acres of fine forest, was surrounded on all sides by a wide stretch of unoccupied prairie. A few small farms skirted the timber, but settlements were few and far between. In all directions one could drive for many miles over virgin soil and not meet a human being, or pass the habitation of a fellow man.

Grant City was at this time, relatively speaking, quite a city. The population were mostly tradesmen, woodsmen, hunters and trappers. Elk, deer, otter, beaver, mink and muskrats were so plentiful as to make hunting and trapping a very profitable, as well as an exciting occupation. The river abounded in a fine quality of fish. There was no doubt as to the fisherman's luck, for fine pickerel could be taken at any time with hook and line, weighing from three to fifteen pounds. Wright's mill dam had raised the water and set it back many miles, and it furnished a place for splendid boating, and here, too, in winter time, the sturdy pioneer boys and girls met in coasting and skating parties, that still make those sparkling winters memorable for mirthful joy.

In the month of August, following the opening of this narrative, I was sent as a lad not yet in my teens, with Hugh Traner, as a counseling com-

panion, to freight some machinery and provisions to my father's ranch, thirty miles west of Grant City, at Badgertown, on the Boyer river, in Crawford county. Mr. Traner was a small, nervous, little man, a fluent talker, in knowing relationship to all the life of those early days. He had a good work team and hauled the heavier load.

My team consisted of a bay mare and a black horse of the Mohawk family, known as "Dick," a notable, noble animal. He was purchased in Ohio by my father, after a long search for the best known horse he could find, irrespective of price. He was game, fast and fearless as a roadster and came to have a reputation among prime horsemen from the foot-hills of the Alleghany mountains to the shifting sands of the Missouri river. He brought our family from West Virginia to Iowa in 1856, and had served my father as an essential adjunct on several circuits, besides conveying him many miles each year to attend annual conferences, where he was greatly admired. I see him now with his glossy coat, silken mane, arched neck, fine head, large full eyes, graceful outline of body, splendid limbs, high, proud carriage, tremendous energy and noiseless feet of frictionless action.

The afternoon was an ideal one for our long drive, and as I had the fastest team it was thought best for me to lead off. Mr. Traner's dog, "Shep," a mongrel collie, ran ahead of my team and searched the roadside along the way for game. In the early part of the afternoon he encountered a badger, an animal of little value, but cunning and treacherous in fighting. When attacked, a badger invariably turns upon his back. A dog will usually nab him by the back of the neck, while the badger proceeds with his long, knife-like claws of his fore feet to almost cut the dog into shoestrings! A terrible conflict ensued, but the dog conquered. \* \* \*

By this time we had reached the divide, the crown of the great watershed of Iowa. As we looked over the undulating prairies, the sun was sinking, large and red behind the hills and, fortunately for us, the moon came up full and round in the east. "Mr. Traner," I called back, "I am hungry." "We will stop for supper," he replied. While we ate our supper he told me this tragic story:

#### FROZEN IN A BLIZZARD.

"At this place the road divides; just ahead of us, on that fearful December night, five years ago, this coming winter, the Golden boys unhitched their oxen and left their wagon. They had gone from their home, southwest of here, to Grant City, for a load of corn. The day was deceitfully warm

and tranquil for the time of the year. Jo Williams, the postmaster at Grant City, told them they had better stay all night, as the afternoon was fast slipping away and they seemed in no hurry to start for home. It was as late as three o'clock when they finally started and they had not been gone two hours when a blinding blizzard struck them. They evidently fought their way in the teeth of the storm to this point, within six miles of their home. They turned their cattle loose, and took down the ravine, running off to the southwest, seeking shelter from the blinding storm. Nothing living and unprotected could survive the days that followed. The third day was New Year's day, 1864, the coldest the state of Iowa has ever experienced. When the storm had somewhat spent its fury, the scattered neighbors organized to make a diligent search for the missing boys, with little hope of finding them alive. Their bodies were not recovered until the following spring. They were found seated in a somewhat sheltered place almost completely covered by a drift of melting snow. The older boy had taken off his coat and put it on his brother and died with the little fellow in his arms."

"Mr. Traner," said I, "my father was out in that storm on the wide stretch of prairie between Jefferson and Lake City. He had crossed the river at Horseshoe Bend. 'I saw,' he said, 'an ominous cloud in the west stretching along the entire horizon and advancing rapidly.' Dick seemed to have a premonition of danger, and father said 'I could hardly hold him; he flew across the prairie at a fearful gait. Soon the storm swept down on us like a desert sirocco, which checked my horse. I could not see the road and was afraid Dick would turn around and drift with the wind storm—I simply had to trust in him. I knew it was getting late in the afternoon and I had no means of telling exactly where I was, but my brave horse kept facing the storm, which swept by us like an avalanche, with the muffled roar of Niagara. I protected myself as best I could with my robes. We kept on in the increasing, terrible storm with laborious toil. At last Dick stopped and I imagined I saw a light. I called and called again and again; my horse moved on impatiently, stopping again presently. Mr. Bishop, living three miles west of Lake City, came to the fence and said, 'Why, Mr. Dudley, I am so glad you reached us. Where were you and how did it all happen?' Father replied, 'Dick saved me; isn't he splendid?' and this was the verdict around the warm hearthstone that night."

Mr. Bishop's home was a favorite stopping place for the itinerant ministers and Dick, having frequently been there before, knew the way through the storm. The sagacious and courageous old hero had struck the

trail and never left it, though in the face of a merciless storm, and finally landed at the right place. I think the bonds of enduring affection closed a little closer between the old itinerant minister and his horse that night; for father always spoke of Dick with kindness in his tone and apologized for all his freaks, for he had some, as most good animals have.

Supper over, we moved on, I thinking of blizzards, flooded with moonlight and fighting with mosquitoes. We reached the ranch about ten o'clock and turned in for the night. The next morning when we went to the stable Dick was gone, and it was a serious question whether he had been stolen or had untied his hitching strap. He had to be tied with great care, and he could draw bars and open gates with a marvelous skill. We spent the forenoon in searching for him and inquired of all the passers by, but no trace of him could be found. The day following was consumed in setting up the machinery and starting to make hay. Mr. Traner returned to Grant City with a promise to send the horse back if he had reached home; but as he did not return for several days we were still apprehensive that some one had stolen him. Fortunately, we did not really need the horse in hay-making. In a short time we had several fine stacks of excellent blue-joint hay put up in fine shape, then it began to rain and rained incessantly for days. The river spread all over the bottom, and we had to flee from the ranch-house to the hills, where we improvised a booth for a residence. We made a boat out of a wagon-box with which to transport our effects to higher ground. The eatables were getting alarmingly low—a few days with half rations, then bran, bread and potatoes, then only potatoes. We boys dug them from under four feet of water. It was less monotonous to dig them than to eat them. Potatoes are not especially inviting when served alone. They tend to become decidedly solitary when limited to only two methods of cooking—baked and boiled, boiled and baked! This was our variety.

Provisionless, water-bound, discouraged and hungry, I determined to go home. The only way I could possibly accomplish this journey was on foot. The ranch man, Mr. Church, was going in the direction of home, where it was reported there was some field corn, some of which we hoped to secure to lend a variety to the potatoes, so he hitched up the oxen to help me along on my long journey. We soon came to a bridgeless stream, which he could not cross with the oxen. I climbed over on a few standing timbers of the structure and, with a promise to send supplies as soon as possible, I bade him good bye and pushed on my journey. It was a hard tramp. I had to make a long detour, wade the deep sloughs and freshet currents of water. I

was so tired, weak and footsore that at times I thought I would be compelled to stop and rest, but I dare not, as night was coming on and it began to grow very dark. The pillar of fire that cheered that darkness was "home, sweet home," a place where the sky is bluer, the water clearer, and bread and butter sweeter, and the pillows softer than any other place on earth. The halo of a light and sympathy I anticipated in the dream of that dreary night was a veritable shekinah that spurred my weary feet to reach the encampment of hallowed ground.

I tugged on and on and at last came to the river, where I met dear old Tom Kirk. Tom was a river man, or rather a boy who took to the water as though it were the accompaniment of his life. I told him my mournful story. "Well, well, get into my boat, I'll soon have you across—your folks have been worrying 'bout you, but I told 'em not to fret, as you would be coming home soon and all right, too." He said Mr. Traner had gotten back before the approaches of the bridge had been washed away, and do you know I was afraid to ask him about Dick for fear he would say he had not returned. We landed and I said "good night" to Tom. "So long, see you in the morning." I started to climb the hill up from the river. It was never so long before and so weary the way. When I reached the top of the hill I could see down the streets. I saw a light gleaming from our cottage window. I greatly surprised the folks. Father laughed his glad welcome. I saw tears in my mother's eyes, as she sat down in a chair and held me in her arms. "I was so anxious about you," she said. "Your father was going to try to go to the ranch tomorrow." You can hardly imagine the joy and rest that came to me when they told me that twenty-four hours after I started from home, for the ranch, Dick came home and stood at the front gate and called to have us let him in. Father said: "I think Bobby had anticipated the freshet, for he is as cunning as he is good. I think you are both better roadsters than you are ranchmen." "I don't know about that, father; I didn't feel like a roadster yesterday." "Well," continued he, "I am sure you have broken the record. Now that I have you both at home I intend to keep you here, and you may take Dick and drive me over to Carroll, where I will take the train for Boonesboro where the conference meets. In the meantime, we must provision the ranch."

That fall Dick moved us again two hundred miles, and we left the wild woods and the little home where we had spent several happy years that had their own peculiar and primitive charms. The hands that lighted the lamps and spread the comforts, living in neighborly good will in the little hamlet



under the great trees, are gone—all gone. A tired pilgrim may hope some day to come up from the river, up the long hill, after the weary journey to immortality, to see a gleaming light and find a glad welcome to the comforts and company for which I have longed at times with a lonely heart. I have greatly missed the sweet fellowship of the long ago, and if old Dick is there I shall be doubly glad. Why not? It has always seemed to me that he should have a place “in the green pastures beside still waters.”

#### AN ADVENTURE IN “HELL SLOUGH.”

Levi Davis (says the *Sac Sun*), then a practicing attorney, later cashier of the Sac County Bank, was married late in the summer of 1864, and during that autumn went with his bride to the eastern part of this state to visit relatives. Early in December they started out on their homeward journey, by way of Fort Dodge and Twin Lakes. At eight o'clock in the morning of December 10th they left Fort Dodge for their home. There was a little snow on the ground and a moderate wind from the northeast. Their conveyance was an open two-seated carriage and they had a driver. About the time they reached the great swamp known as “Purgatory,” three miles east of the lakes, the wind changed to a terrible tempest from the northwest and the air was filled with flying snow. They were caught by a blizzard. The temperature fell rapidly and reached thirty degrees below zero. At two o'clock in the afternoon they reached the stage station at Twin Lakes and, as it was impossible to go further, they remained over until nine o'clock Monday, the 12th of the month, when they started on the last stretch of their journey. The snow had stopped blowing and the wind had moderated somewhat, though there was a stiff breeze from the northwest and the mercury stood at twenty below zero. They reached a high hill, halfway between Sac City and Twin Lakes, without accident, but at that point the hind axle broke on their buggy in such a manner that it could not be well repaired. It was decided that the driver should go on to Sac City and procure help, while Mr. and Mrs. Davis kept the robes and made themselves as comfortable as possible in the meantime. First they descended into “Hell Slough,” Mr. Davis carrying a part of the lap robes with him. Mrs. Davis complained that her feet were freezing, and so they went down into a well five or six feet deep, where, sheltered from the raging wind, he took her shoes off and, after a vigorous rubbing, finally succeeded in getting up a circulation of blood. Reascending from the dry well, Mr. Davis took the several robes out into the cane-grass some eight to ten feet in height and laid them down in such a shape as to make a



good protection from the wind. After this Mr. Davis started back to the hill top after more of the robes. After he had gone awhile the Rev. Lamont, presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal district, came along in his buggy and chanced to see the buffalo robes in the cane-grass and so deliberately drew forth his rifle from the back of his buggy and as he was about to aim and fire, Mrs. Davis, hearing the rattle of his buggy upon coming along, rose up with her robe, thinking help had been sent from Sac City. She was just in time, as the presiding elder was going to shoot at what he supposed to be a live buffalo. Mr. Davis returned with the remaining covering and the preacher wanted them to go back with him to Twin Lakes, but they wanted to come on home to Sac City, so thanked him for the offer, and remained in all three or four hours, when a wagoner, moving some soldiers, picked them up and took them along west, reaching home before nightfall. They met their team coming out after them, but it was supposed they would find the man and his newly married wife frozen before they could reach them. "All is well that ends well!"

## CHAPTER XX.

### ANIMALS AND GAME BIRDS OF SAC COUNTY.

By John A. Spurrell.

[Believing that this subject should be well treated in the annals of this county, we invited Mr. John A. Spurrell, a man well calculated to produce facts and write an interesting article on this topic, and he has obtained much information by interviews with such men as Hugh Cory, Asa Platt, Orville Lee, Shelt Tiberghien, of Sac City; C. Everett Lee, Lytton; John Spurrell, of Wall Lake; Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Hayden, Wall Lake; H. P. Dudley, Carroll and H. B. Smith, of Odebolt, after which he has written the following able and highly interesting article, which cannot fail to please the reader of local history.—ED.]

Few people of today realize the importance of the game and fur-bearing animals to the early settlers of Sac county. In fact no settlements could have been made until the railroads had been built had there not been an abundance of game and fur-bearing animals. Large game was found in some abundance until 1870, and game birds until 1885 or 1890.

I obtained records of all the large game animals except antelope. Of these, the buffalo or bison were the largest and were found only as stragglers when the first settlers arrived in 1854, having been much hunted by the Indians, but it had been much more abundant formerly, as shown by hundreds of buffalo bones dredged up in Rush lake when it was drained in 1911. Many bones were found also in a miry place on Platt Armstrong's place, near Lake View, and at several other points while digging drainage ditches, while horns were sometimes plowed up on the prairies. Asa Platt killed a three-year-old female buffalo on the county line south of Storm Lake in June, 1858. Three other buffalo crossed the county and were killed west of Lake City, about the same time. Mr. Platt reported two buffalo crossing the southwest corner of the county in 1860, and they were killed near Jefferson. Mr. Shelt Tiberghien saw one buffalo in 1863 about a mile and a half south and three miles west of Sac City, but this one escaped. The largest bunch he heard of was five killed near Lake City in 1862, in Calhoun county. The Johnny Green Indians killed two buffalo on a hunt commencing a mile and a half south of Newell and extending through Sac county to Ida Grove, in 1862.

All early settlers united in saying that elk or wapiti were plentiful, being found from solitary individuals up to five hundred in a herd. They were the most important source of meat to the earliest settlers, this place being taken by deer later.

The elk herded in winter and in case of storms took refuge in reed and rush grown ponds, where the reeds were ten feet high or more. In summer-time they scattered out. Elk horns could be picked up by the wagon load in 1856. Shelt Tiberghien captured three calves and raised them to yearlings. The last elk in Sac county was a herd of about forty which went from east of Storm Lake, south through Sac county, crossing the "Goosepond" at Wall Lake, in October, 1869. Deer were plentiful until the winter of 1856-57, when, in deep snow, about three feet on the level, the wolves and hunters nearly exterminated them. One hunter killed thirty as fast as he could shoot, at Mason's Grove in Crawford county, and over one hundred and fifty were killed by the settlers of that grove during that winter. The saddles (two hind quarters) of these deer were sold for fifty cents each in Sioux City. Deer were rare for several years after that winter, then increased and were plentiful until the seventies. They stayed on the prairies and hid in the rushes and tall grass around ponds in summer and took refuge in the hollows and cuts in the hills in winter. If there were any deer in the county they were always to be found between the Boyer river and Indian creek, where these came nearest to each other. Platt Armstrong killed four deer near Lake View in 1880, probably the last in this county, although there may have been a few stragglers later.

This large game furnished much of the meat for the early settlers, although wild ducks, geese, swan, prairie chickens, etc., were plentiful, while at first the fur-bearing animals furnished the only cash revenue.

Musk rats were the most important, because the most abundant. The skins were worth from eight to ten cents in 1857 and from twelve to fifteen each in 1870, when Shelt Tiberghien and two partners trapped six thousand two hundred and fifty muskrats from October, 1870, to May, 1871. The muskrats were called the "savior of the people" and taxes were paid from the proceeds of trapping. Furs and hides were the only products valuable enough to stand transportation by team before the railroad came.

Beaver were very common, the dams they built across the Coon river being so numerous (about a half mile apart) that there was slack water nearly all the way up the river. These dams doubtless did much to prevent destructive floods, and to equalize the stream flow. Beaver were most plentiful in 1856, and on the Coon river the last dam was straight east of Lake View,

where Shelt Tiberghien and partner caught thirteen beaver in 1870. The last beaver trapped on the Boyer river were caught in 1886, west of Wall Lake.

Otter were plentiful and, while steadily decreasing in number, held their own better than the beaver, one being caught near Sac City in 1912. One trapper caught five otter one day in early times, and they were worth three dollars a piece then, or less than a mink skin now. The otter lived almost exclusively on fish. In the Coon river pickerel were most abundant, then red horse and suckers; black bass, cat fish, and wall-eyed pike were not so numerous. In Wall lake pickerels were most plentiful, but there were also buffalo, perch and black bass. This lake looked like sleds had been driven all over it in the winter of 1855-56, so numerous were the otter slides, according to Mr. Hugh Cory.

Raccoons, from which the river was named, were common, says Mr. Cory. His father, F. M. Cory, got twelve out of an abandoned beaver hole in the bank of the Coon river, in the winter of 1855-56. A few are still found, two being trapped north of Sac City in the winter of 1913-14.

One black bear was chased by Jim Butler and two other hunters on horseback from south of Wall lake to the Boyer river in 1855, but it escaped.

Mink were common, only a little more common than they were until about five years ago.

Weasels have had about the same abundance all the time, being only tolerably common.

Badgers were very common in the early days on the prairies, and a very few remain yet. One was caught this (1913-14) winter, near Wall lake. I think they are increasing slightly and they should be protected, as they live almost entirely upon the big gray and little striped squirrels. Every farmer knows how destructive the large grays are to seed corn after it has been planted.

The large striped skunks were common, twelve being taken out of one hole by one trapper. They are not very common now, at least in the southern part of the county. The little spotted skunks were first trapped in 1858, but must have been at Grant City long before that. However, they did not become very common until about 1880, and are now very plentiful. Both kinds of skunks live mostly on meadow mice, white grubs, grasshoppers and such small game and are worthy of protection, except when one gets the chicken-killing habit, as they do occasionally.

There were two species of foxes in Sac county, the red fox and the kit or swift fox. The swift fox stayed on the prairie and was rather rare.

Hugh Cory trapped one at Correction pond in 1862. Mr. Tiberghien trapped six swift foxes in 1858. Red fox were most common in 1804. Two trappers, in 1804, caught thirty-seven foxes, a few of these were cross foxes, worth five dollars, and one, a silver fox, was worth fifteen dollars; these are color varieties of the red fox. Red fox were worth from one to one and a half dollars each. Many red foxes were killed by strychnine and about 1880 a pack of hounds were brought to Sac City which ran most of the foxes out of the country. An occasional one is still trapped, however, one being caught near Sac City in the winter just passing.

Timber, or large gray wolves, were rather scarce, the last one being killed in 1808. Both timber wolves and coyotes caught and ate red foxes. A black wolf, not as large as the timber wolf, was very rare. F. M. Cory, in 1858, captured a pup from a litter playing at the mouth of the den, which animal he kept a year. This was the last one seen.

Coyotes were more plentiful in early days than now, but they are still fairly common and seem to be increasing in numbers, three being trapped near Wall lake the past winter and two reported caught in other parts of this county. Several dens are dug out nearly every spring.

Three Canada lynx were killed in 1800, and a straggler in 1875, but they were rare.

Bob-cats or wild-cats were common. Most of them were killed by 1870, but one was captured in 1885. These two species were found in the heavier timber.

I have obtained no actual record of a panther or puma, but have heard rumors of the same. Probably they were very rare, and were exterminated before the settlement by white men.

A porcupine was killed in Grant City in 1854.

The first gray or barn rat came from New York in the spring of 1858 in a box of goods. It escaped and was trapped the following fall. Barn rats were next reported in 1868.

The large gray ground squirrels or gophers and the little striped ground squirrels were as common as now, and chipmunks were more common than now, in the timber. There were always woodchucks, or ground-hogs, in Grant grove and Lee's grove, ten miles south and eight miles north of Sac City respectively, but they never spread out much until the last ten years. They have spread through the timber and one was caught at Wall lake August 27, 1912.

Orville Lee reported a prairie dog town of about twenty burrows in

Jackson township in 1900, but these may have been descendants of escaped pets.

Fox, or timber, squirrels have always been found in the larger groves, but were very rare at first and only in late years have they become very plentiful. At Wall lake they appeared first about 1904.

Flying squirrels were always found in the timber and a few are found yet. They move about only at night, so are not often seen.

Pocket gophers were found in morning glory patches on the unbroken prairie, and they are and were always common.

Opossums were found in Grant and Lee's groves, when the first settlers came, but were rare. They are still rather scarce, but are increasing. They first appeared around Sac City about 1900, and at Wall lake in 1907, and are spreading out over the prairie, wherever they can find a little timber.

Cottontail, or gray rabbits, were always common, but in early times were found only in the timber, because coyotes were too common, while now almost none are found in the timber and they are common in the corn fields in the winter.

Jackrabbits, or prairie hares, are becoming more plentiful yearly, but the first record I can find is of one seen in the southern part of the county in 1868 or 1869. One was killed near Lake View in 1879 and it was five years before the hunter saw another. They did not become numerous until about 1890 to 1900.

With game birds Sac county was ever more plentifully supplied than with game animals and fur-bearers. Of these, the largest was the trumpeter and whistling swans. These were common, the whistling the more so, until 1865. The trumpeter swan nested three miles west of Sac City in 1859 and later. The last nest reported was in 1870.

Canada geese were also plentiful and nested until 1880. Snow geese and white-fronted geese were common, sometimes abundant, and blue geese rare. These species are called brant by hunters. Whooping or white cranes were always rather rare here and I have seen none for several years. Sandhill cranes were plentiful and nested here until 1878. They are still seen in spring and fall, but rather rare. Pelicans were common, sometimes going in flocks of about one hundred. A hail storm killed seventy-five or eighty pelicans on a pond between Wall lake and Sac City, while migrating in April. They still stop on Wall lake in both spring and fall. They live on fish and are hardly properly called a game bird, but are usually shot because of their size and rarity, but should not be, as they are protected by law.

Long-billed curlew and marbled godwits were common and until 1877 nested. They were rare after 1875. Upland plover were common and nested until about fifteen years ago; there were countless thousands of golden plover in the spring of 1876.

As one settler said, "There was no end to ducks." They were of many species. Every pond was covered with ducks in the fall. One person reported having seen the entire east end of Wall lake, east of a line drawn from Lakewood to Provost's, covered with ducks so thickly that the water looked black, during the spring migration. Contrast this with the conditions of today and the great difference in the abundance of ducks can be readily seen. The species were the same as now, but their numbers have been greatly reduced. Spring shooting has been stopped none too soon. Mallard, pintail and teal were the most common ducks, mallard and teal nesting here, as did wood ducks along the Coon river. Redheads were much more common than canvas-backs, seven only out of one hundred and thirty-six of the two species killed from 1875 to 1890 being canvas-backs. The rarest of ducks was the old squaw and the hooded merganser next.

Of upland game birds, the wild turkey was the largest in size, three being killed at Grant City in 1854. Ruffed grouse were reported rare by Hugh Cory, the last ones he saw were killed in the sixties. Orville Lee saw one in the woods near Sac City in 1886 and heard of others being seen before. The passenger, or wild, pigeon was always rather scarce, five hundred in one flock being the largest number reported. One was seen in the "Goosepond" near Wall lake in the summer of 1875. One was killed near Sac City in 1879, and a flock of twenty seen near Wall lake between 1880 and 1885.

The sharp-tailed grouse, or prairie grouse, was tolerably common in very early times. Hugh Cory reported trapping about one hundred in the winter of 1855-56. The last one was seen in 1858.

A bird called the woodcock, but really the pileated woodpecker, was rare and was soon exterminated because considered good eating; the last one was seen in 1865. Magpies were found in the timber only along the Coon river in the sixties and turkey vultures much later than this.

Bob-whites, or quail, were most plentiful in 1866, but only stayed in the brush and timber at that time. There was a small flock in a patch of brush on Indian creek, near Lake View, in 1878. They are very rare now owing to a combination of hunters and hard winters. The largest flock I have ever seen was twenty-four about fifteen years ago.

Prairie chickens were the most important upland game bird, because the



most abundant. They nested all over the prairies. They were most abundant at first settlement, but at that time migrated during the winter. Fifteen tried to winter in 1855-56 and only seven survived, but prairie chickens were very abundant next summer and fall, having come back from the South. Later, when the prairies were planted to corn to a large extent, many wintered as well as nested here. Their nests were very common in 1875. During the eighties nearly every farmer had a line of chicken traps out during the winter. There was one white or albino prairie chicken reported. Now no prairie chickens nest in Sac county that I have been able to locate, the last being about 1900, but they migrate in from the northwest and winter here, sometimes being common around shocked corn.

#### PARTIAL LIST OF BIRDS OF SAC COUNTY.

This is a list of birds I have seen and made a note of in Sac county, mostly in the vicinity of the towns of Wall Lake, with brief notes on some of them. It is by no means complete, but most of the land birds are included in it. Five species were seen by my sister.

The yellow-billed cuckoo, or "rain crow," is common in the groves and lives on the hairy caterpillars and other enemies of tree foliage. The black-billed cuckoo is rare. I have seen only one.

The belted kingfisher is a common migrant along the Coon river and on Wall lake.

The hairy and downy woodpeckers are tolerably common in winter and sometimes nests in the timber.

The yellow-billed sap-sucker is rare, fortunately, because this is the woodpecker that makes the rows of neat punctures in the bark of trees, to eat the inner bark. All other woodpeckers live mostly on insects injurious to trees.

The flicker (yellow-hammer) or "high hole" and the red-headed woodpeckers are common.

I have seen the whippoorwill only once at Wall lake, May 14, 1910.

The nighthawk, or "bull bat," is a common migrant and nests along the Coon river.

The chimney swift, or swallow, sometimes nests in unused chimneys, especially in towns of this county. It formerly nested in hollow trees. These three birds live entirely on insects taken on the wing. Over one thousand mosquitoes have been taken from a night hawk's stomach.

The ruby-throated humming bird is usually rare, but sometimes common as a migrant, and sometimes nests here.

The king-bird is common and the Arkansas king-bird, which has a yellow color where the common king-bird has white, is rare.

The crested fly-catcher nests along the Coon river and is a rare migrant in other parts of the county.

The phoebe nests under bridges near woods, and the wood pewee nests in nearly every grove.

The prairie horned lark is common, nesting in meadows early in the spring and later in the corn fields, where many nests are destroyed by the corn plows. It lives on weed seeds, waste grain and insects.

Blue jays and crows are common, but many of them move farther south for the winter.

Bobolinks are common, nesting in wild hay lands. Cow birds are common; and red-winged blackbirds nest in every swampy place. Yellow headed blackbirds nest only in reeds over fairly deep water. The rusty blackbird and Brewer's blackbirds are common migrants and the bronze grackle, ordinarily called blackbird, nests commonly in groves.

The foregoing birds damage grain to some extent, but also do much good by eating white grubs and other insects.

The meadow lark commonly nests in pastures and meadows, where it does much good by living on grasshoppers, etc.

Baltimore orioles are common migrants and frequently nest in groves, while orchard orioles are somewhat rarer.

The redpoll, a northern bird, was tolerably common in the winter of 1910-11, and I have seen pine siskins once, in September, 1908. I have also seen snowflakes once during a blizzard, February 14, 1909. The Lapland longspur is an abundant migrant, and is tolerably common as a winter resident. It flies in huge flocks which stay out in the fields, never alighting in trees.

Vesper sparrows are rare migrants and Savanna sparrows common migrants, while the grasshopper sparrow commonly nests in pastures and meadows. These sparrows all stay out in the fields. The lark sparrow is a rare migrant. The Harris and white-throated sparrows are abundant migrants and the white-crowned song fox and chipping sparrows are tolerably common migrants and are found along hedges and in the groves. The slate colored junco is an abundant migrant, as is the tree sparrow, which also winters here. The swamp sparrow is common in marshes. All the native sparrows feed their young upon insects and live upon weed seeds themselves

and are gifted with sweet songs, while the English sparrow or European house sparrow, which abounds in our towns and sometimes on the farms, lives on grain, drives away more valuable native birds by taking their nesting places and makes a nuisance of itself generally.

The towhee is a rare migrant at Wall lake, and nests in the timber at Sac City.

The rose-breasted grosbeak is common, nesting in groves and orchards.

The Indigo bunting is rare at Wall lake and I have seen it at Sac City.

The dickcissel is common, nesting in hay fields, where many nests are destroyed by the mowers.

The lark bunting, a western bird, is rare. I have seen it only once, in May, 1908.

The scarlet tanager is a rare migrant at Wall lake.

The purple martin is common in the larger towns of this county. It lives on insects, which it catches flying, including enormous numbers of mosquitoes and flies. Its numbers could be greatly increased by putting up more martin houses for it. The cliff and barn swallows nest about barns and sheds, and are abundant migrants, as is the tree swallow, which nests only rarely. The bank swallow nests most commonly about Wall lake, and the rough winged swallow nests in banks along Coon river. All the swallows are useful birds, living on flying insects exclusively. The cedar wax-wings are rare migrants.

The white rumped sheike, or butcher bird, is only tolerably common, nesting in hedges or isolated trees. The warbling vireo is common and the blue-headed rare.

The warblers are a group of small birds of almost tropical brilliancy of colors, which frequent groves and hedges during migration and vary much in numbers from year to year. The yellow warbler is abundant and nests here. The myrtle, magnolia, black-poll, redstart, Wilson and northern yellow-throat warblers are all common. The latter nests in sloughs. The black and white, Nashville, parula, chestnut-sided and palm warblers, water thrush and Louisiana water thrush are all tolerably common. The bay-breasted blackburrian, Canadian, Cape May, black-throated green and mourning warblers are rare. All the warblers live on insects which live on tree foliage.

The pitpit or titlark is tolerably common as a migrant, being found on plowed fields only.

The cat bird and brown thrasher are common, nesting in groves and thickets.

The house wren is common, nesting in holes or bird boxes that the English sparrows cannot occupy. The wren can go through a hole one inch in diameter, while the sparrow cannot. The winter wren is rare. I have seen only one. The short-billed marsh wren is common in sloughs, or wet wild grass lands. The long-billed marsh wren is found only in sloughs where there is permanent water.

The brown creeper and white breasted nuthatch are tolerably common, being found creeping around tree trunks in winter. The red-headed nuthatch is rare, only one being seen.

The black-capped chickadee is common in groves in winter and sometimes nests.

The ruby-crowned kinglet is a common migrant and the golden crowned kinglet a rare one.

The wood thrush or "bell bird" is tolerably common, nesting in groves.

The well-known robin is an abundant migrant, and nests almost everywhere.

The bluebird is only tolerably common as a migrant at Wall Lake, and rarely nests, but is more abundant in the woods along the Coon river.

Of water birds, game birds and birds of prey, my list is not as complete as it is of land birds, but the following are those I have noted:

Pied-billed grebe is common on the lakes and larger ponds. It is commonly called "hell-diver" by hunters and must patter along over the surface of the water before it can take flight.

The Franklin gull, a white bird with black head and wing tips and about the size of a pigeon, is very abundant, migrates in the spring and fall, flying in large flocks, often following the plow to pick up grubs and worms, and even white-footed mice. It is a harmless and beneficial bird and should not be wantonly killed, as it often is by hunters.

I have picked up one specimen dead, of the least tern, on Wall lake. I think it is a rather rare migrant. The black tern or "slough gull," a slate and black colored bird about the size of a killdeer, is a common migrant and nests on Wall lake and in ponds south of Sac City. It is also harmless and beneficial and protected by law, as is the Franklin gull.

I have found mallard, pintail or "black-headed" ducks common; also blue-winged teal; and Shoveller, gad wall and redheads, only tolerably common.

The Canada goose is rare now, but two smaller subspecies of it are some what more common.

The bittern, "shypoke," or "thunder pumper," is an abundant migrant and common summer resident in marshy places. I have seen the least bittern once on Wall lake; it is rather rare, I think.

The great blue heron, or "blue crane," is a common migrant and is more often found along the larger streams. I have seen the little green heron along the Coon river at Sac City, where it is common in the fall.

The whooping or white crane is a very rare migrant; I have seen none for at least five years. The sandhill crane is a tolerably common migrant, but I have seen only one flock alight, which was in a pasture a long ways from any farm buildings, in October, 1907.

The king rail and the sora rail are common in the dense rushes of marshy land and on the borders of lakes. The king rail nests in the "Goosepond" in wet seasons. I have seen the Virginia rail at Wall lake. The expression "thin as a rail" comes from the slinness of these birds.

Mud hens, or coots, are common migrants on lakes and ponds and some nest in secluded places. I have found one brood of the Florida gallinule, or "red billed mud hen," on a pond near Carnarvon.

The Wilson phalarope, the most beautiful of the shore birds, is a rare migrant. I have seen it in the "Goosepond" and the inlet of Wall lake.

The Wilson snipe, or jack snipe, is an abundant migrant, being found in marshes and wet ground.

Pectoral sandpiper or "grass snipes," are common migrants, sometimes being found on pasture lands far from their usual haunts of wet lands, marshes and streams. The Baird sandpiper is a rare migrant, and the least and the semi-palmated sandpipers are common migrants. These are all known as "peeps" and are found along lake and stream shores. The lesser yellow legs is a common migrant and inhabits marshes, streams and lake shores.

The upland plover is a rather rare migrant and is often found in meadows and pastures far from water. It sometimes nests in pastures.

The spotted sandpiper, or "teeter," is found along lake shores and wooded streams, and is a tolerably common migrant and summer resident.

The killdeer is a common migrant and often nests in corn fields a half mile or more from water. The semi-palmated plover is tolerably common. It is found around ponds and along streams. All the shore birds live mostly on insects, and any of them on mosquito's larvae, especially the killdeer. The Wilson or Jack snipe is the only one common enough to be fairly con-

sidered a game bird. The others should be spared, as all are more useful alive than dead.

The bob-white, or quail, the cheerful inhabitant of the road sides and bush-covered tracts, is very rare now. I have seen only one (June 22, 1913) near Wall lake, in the last six years, in Sac county. It feeds mostly on weed seeds and injurious insects, the potato bug and grasshoppers being among its favorites.

The prairie chicken is now only a winter resident, being fairly common at times, and finding shocked corn a great help in surviving the winter. It migrates from the north in the fall and departs in the spring; none nest here now, as almost all the prairie grass lands are gone.

The mourning, or turtle, dove is a common summer resident and should be protected at all times, as its entire food—ninety per cent. or more—is weed seeds, fox-tail being its favorite food. I have never known of but two doves wintering here.

The marsh hawk is tolerably common, a pair usually nesting in each large sized slough, the nest being placed on the ground. I have known them to winter here.

The sharp-shinned hawk is a tolerably common migrant and the Cooper hawk a rare migrant at Wall lake. Probably both are more common and nest in the timber along the Coon river. These hawks have the same build, but the sharp-shinned is twelve inches long and about the size of a pigeon, and the Cooper is sixteen inches long. They are brown or gray on the back, but white underneath, streaked with reddish brown. They have long, narrow wings and a long tail, and fly very swiftly. They live on birds and game and chickens, when they are handy, ninety-five per cent. of the time and five per cent. of the time on other things. They are responsible for nearly all hawks being called "chicken hawks," while in fact the other hawks eat meadow mice, grasshoppers, etc., in summer time. They rarely, if indeed ever, take chickens, hence are beneficial because they kill the meadow mice.

The red-tailed hawk is a big, broad-winged slow-flying hawk, which spends much of its time flying in large circles, high in the air. It is a tolerably common migrant in spring, a common migrant in the fall, and sometimes winters here. It is mostly known as chicken hawk, but is not the common chicken thief among hawks, which is the Cooper.

The sparrow-hawk is a tolerably common migrant and sometimes nests in hollow trees.

The long-eared owl is rare at Wall lake, but is probably more common in

the timber. The short-eared owl, or "slough owl," is common in winter and a pair usually build their nest on the ground in the tall grass, of each large slough. They live principally upon meadow mice.

The screech owl is common, living mostly on mice and English sparrows.

The burrowing owl is rather rare, but I have seen it several times, and it sometimes nests in the hills south and west of Wall lake. It has extended its range into this county only in the last few years, the first one I saw being September 16, 1907. The owl that lives on game and other birds and is not averse to taking full-grown chickens is the great horned owl, which I have never seen in Sac county, and I think it is extinct here. It lives only in heavy native timber. The snowy owl, a large white owl that comes from the north in severe winters, has been taken in Sac county.









*Phil. Schaller*

# BIOGRAPHICAL

HON. PHIL SCHALLER.

Human life is like the waves of the sea, which flash for a few brief moments in the sunlight, marvels of power and beauty, and then are dashed upon the remorseless shores of death and disappear forever. As the mighty deep has rolled for ages past and chanted its sublime requiem and will continue to roll during the coming ages until time shall be no more, so will the waves of human life follow each other in countless succession until they mingle at last with eternity's boundless sea. The passing of any human life, however humble and unknown, is sure to give rise to a pang of anguish which will wring some heart, but when the fell destroyer knocks audibly at the door of the useful and great and removes from earthly scenes the man of honor and influence and the benefactor of his kind, it not only means bereavement to kindred and friends, but a public calamity as well. In the largest and best sense of the term, the late Phil Schaller, of Sac City, Sac county, was distinctly one of the notable men of his time and generation in the vicinity of which this history treats, and as such is entitled to a conspicuous place in the annals of western Iowa—in fact, he was one of the great men of the state.

Hon. Phil Schaller rose from being a poor emigrant boy to become a man of substance and great influence and power in his adopted land where opportunities are everywhere awaiting the energetic and deserving. He was born in Worth, Alsace, Germany, January 6, 1838, and there obtained his primary education in the common schools. At the age of sixteen years he came to America, tarrying for a short time in the Eastern states, but finally arrived in Iowa in 1854. He had little more than the clothing on his back when he arrived in America and did not locate in Iowa until sixteen years after his arrival. He established his first residence in Clayton county and enlisted in the Union army upon the outbreak of the Rebellion. On August 8, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry Regiment, and participated in all the engagements of his regiment, including Steele's

Arkansas expedition, the Meridian campaign, the Red River campaign (where he won distinction in the capture of Fort De Russy), Smith's expedition to Tupelo and Oxford, the pursuit of General Price through Arkansas and Missouri, the battle of Nashville and campaigns about Mobile and its defenses. He was mustered out with his regiment August 8, 1865, and at once returned to Clayton county, Iowa, where he engaged in the wagon-making trade, in which he was a successful operator for a number of years.

In the spring of 1872 Mr. Schaller had a vision of the broad and fertile prairies of western Iowa and of what the newer lands might have in store for him. He came to Sac county and located in Eden township on a beautiful quarter section of wild land and set about improving the same, intending to follow farming for a livelihood. But it was not long before he was entrusted with the agency of the Iowa Railroad Land Company, which corporation then owned large tracts of land in Sac and adjoining counties. In this position Mr. Schaller obtained a wide and favorable acquaintance among all the hardy pioneers of northwestern Iowa. The wise policy of the company and its big-hearted agent saved to many a settler, in the time of distress, the home he would have lost had those he had been dealing with been less kindly disposed. Recounting the days and experiences of that trying period, many a pioneer shed tears and truly grieved when he heard that bluff, kind-hearted Phil Schaller was no more for this earth. His memory will long be revered and forever and ever in the history of Sac county and western Iowa Phil Schaller will be remembered as the "Friend of the Farmer."

It is not to be supposed that an individual possessing his native ability and rich experience in business and with his fellow men would long stay out of politics in a new and rapidly growing country, in which he settled not long after the close of the civil conflict. The events of that war, the strong administration developed by the party of Lincoln and the policies of the Republican party naturally found the deceased a stalwart supporter of the same, though he was independent enough in his action to scratch a ticket when names of candidates appeared there whom he believed not worthy the office they sought at the hands of the people. His first office was that of member of the board of county supervisors in Sac county, which position he held with great courage and credit to himself and the people whose interests he had been entrusted with. He held this office until, in 1877, he was elected treasurer of Sac county, and it was at a time when county warrants were nowhere near par and he was elected upon his pledge that he would make all

warrants good as gold, which promise he carried out to the letter. This necessitated his removal from his farm to Sac City, where he continued to reside for a third of a century and up to the time of his death. In 1885 he was elected to a seat in the twenty-first General Assembly of Iowa, where he, by the force of his courage and ability, made Sac county known far and near. Among the measures he espoused was that of trying to secure the location of the Iowa State Soldiers' Home at Sac City, but it finally went to Marshalltown and became an institution in which he was greatly interested, and he was appointed as one of its inspectors for the state, doing good service, both for the commonwealth and for his old comrades-at-arms. He also aided, as a party measure, the introduction of the prohibitory liquor laws as well as other important state legislation. He was a delegate to the Republican national convention at St. Louis, in 1896, which nominated President William McKinley the first time. He was twice elected mayor of Sac City and through his ability and fearlessness secured the enactment of wholesome ordinances and rules for the government of his home town. During his administration there were less arrests and better order prevailed than at any other time before that period. He was also state commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and held numerous positions in several banking concerns of Sac county, in which he was also a heavy stockholder. He was a liberal contributor in various public enterprises and for many years a trustee of the Buena Vista College, the Sac City Institute and the local Presbyterian church of Sac City, of which he was a member. He also held membership in the various branches of the Masonic order, all the way from the blue lodge up to the consistory. He was once grand treasurer for the grand lodge of Iowa, and belonged to numerous other fraternal societies at Sac City, but doubtless esteemed most of all his connection with Gen. W. T. Sherman Post No. 284, Grand Army of the Republic. The surviving members of this post will not soon forget comrade Schaller's loyalty and helpfulness in its maintenance and many a soldier has reason to remember with deepest gratitude some one or more acts of kindness coming from him in a time when it was most needed.

It was the late Hon. George D. Perkins, editor of the *SiouX City Journal*, who said upon hearing of the death of comrade Schaller: "Dear old Phil Schaller! Big-hearted man; courageous man—a type of man who leaves his impress and mark where the chance to live is given."

Another token of love and esteem came through a committee of three from the Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown, sent to Sac City on this special

errand, to deliver the following set of resolutions, bespeaking of the sentiment held at Marshalltown among his old-time comrades:

"Whereas, the sad and mournful funeral knell has betokened that another spirit has winged its flight to a new state of existence; an alarm has come to our outpost and the messenger is Death, and none will presume to say to the awful presence: 'Who comes there?' In the death of comrade, friend and associate Schaller we feel that we have met an irreparable loss, but our loss is far less than that sustained by those nearer and dearer to him.

"Therefore, be it resolved: That in behalf of our post, we give this tribute symbol of our undying love for comrades of the war and that we mourn for one who was in every way worthy of our respect and regards and, as members of the Iowa Soldiers' Home, we feel that he has always had our best interests at heart; that he has been an undefatigable worker in his endeavors to better the condition of this home—more so than any other person.

"Resolved, That we sincerely condole with the family of the deceased on the dispensation which has pleased Divine Providence to afflict them and we commend for consolation to Him who orders all things well and whose chastisements are given with a merciful hand.

"Resolved, that this heart-felt testimonial of our sorrow and sympathies be delivered to the family of our departed comrade and friend by the delegates from this post selected to attend his burial.

"J. J. BEEDY,

"GEORGE W. WEBB,

"W. A. HAMILTON."

For several years previous to his death Mr. Schaller was the senior member of the firm of Schaller & Hart, lands and loans, and composed of Mr. Schaller and William H. Hart, the editor of the historical section of this work. The thriving and beautiful town of Schaller was named in his honor by the land company. He was the first president of the Sac County Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, which he assisted in organizing. Mr. Schaller became a director in the First National Bank of Sac City, and was originator and first president of the Lake View State Bank.

Mr. Schaller was first married in October of 1865 to Emiline L. Knight, of Clayton county, Iowa, by whom he had two daughters born, Louise, the wife of E. P. Hartman, of Lake View, and Eugenie, the wife of F. S. Need-



ham, banker of Sac City. Mrs. Schaller passed from earth on February 13, 1899. In July of 1900, Mr. Schaller married Mrs. Catherine Fishman, who survives him and resides at Sac City.

Catharine Rosenhauer (Fishman) Schaller is a native of Bavaria, Germany, the daughter of John and Julia Rosenhauer, who emigrated to America in the year 1845. They first settled in Massachusetts, and in 1848 removed to the wilds of Wisconsin where they became pioneer settlers and where John Rosenhauer is still residing in the ripeness of a long and fruitful life: Catharine Rosenhauer was first married in Wisconsin to William Fishman in 1869. William Fishman was a native of Westphalia, Germany, and came to America when a youth. He learned the trade of blacksmith and followed it as a means of gaining a livelihood throughout his entire life. Not many years after this marriage they settled in Sac City where Mr. Fishman conducted a blacksmith shop and prospered. He died in 1884, leaving a son, George, now deceased. A niece, Agnes Rosenhauer, is residing with Mrs. Schaller. Mrs. Schaller is a member of the Presbyterian church and the Eastern Star chapter.

Phil Schaller was one of the first members of Occidental Lodge No. 178, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, a member of Darius Chapter No. 58, Royal Arch Masons, Rose Croix Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, and the Eastern Star Chapter No. 18, of Sac City. He was affiliated with the De Molay Consistory No. 1 of Lyons, Iowa, and was a member of the Des Moines Consistory of Scottish Rite Masonry. He held the office of grand treasurer of the grand lodge of Iowa Masons. He valued most highly his comradeship in the Grand Army of the Republic, Gen. W. T. Sherman Post, at Sac City. For a period of three years Comrade Schaller was commander of the Northwestern Iowa Veterans' Association with the title of colonel commanding.

Mr. Schaller's death occurred at Earlville, Iowa, July 21, 1911, and was occasioned by apoplexy. He and his wife had been in attendance at the funeral of his sister in Dubuque and stopped off at Earlville to visit relatives. Without warning, this gallant soldier, pioneer and statesman was gathered to his fathers. His funeral was held from the Presbyterian church in Sac City and was conducted by Rev. R. L. Brackman, pastor. His remains were interred in Oakland cemetery, with a large company of ex-soldiers and hundreds of friends from distant places furnishing the funeral procession. The deceased had surviving him, his wife, two daughters, six brothers and ten grandchildren.

Phil Schaller departed this earthly life at the ripe age of seventy-two years. His life and accomplishments are so closely interwoven with the history and development of Sac county that it is necessary elsewhere in this volume to record data more closely than is herein presented by the biographer. We cannot do justice to his character or fittingly portray the usefulness of a truly great and wonderfully endowed citizen such as he. Phil Schaller will live long in the memory of the people of Sac county. His life story will prove to be an inspiration to every poor boy who looks forward to the time when he, too, may become a leader of his fellow men and win wealth and greatness such as comes to but few men in a community. To have known Phil Schaller was to have esteemed him highly. Peace be to his ashes.

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#### ERNEST C. FULLER.

Prominent in the affairs of Sac county and distinguished as a citizen whose influence is far extended beyond the limits of the community honored by his residence, the name of E. C. Fuller stands out a conspicuous figure among the successful men of the locality of which this history treats. All of his undertakings have been actuated by noble motives and high resolves and characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality and his success and achievements but represent the result of fit utilization of innate talent in directing effort along those lines where mature judgment and rare discrimination lead the way. He has been identified in a business way with various local enterprises, in all of which he has been uniformly successful.

E. C. Fuller, county supervisor from the first district, and substantial business man of Early, Iowa, was born August 4, 1855, at LaSalle, LaSalle county, Illinois, the son of S. K. and Mary Ann (Swartauf) Fuller, both natives of the state of New York, the father born in December, 1826, in Orleans county, that state, and died at Early, Iowa, in September, 1911, and the mother, also deceased, born in Niagara county, New York. S. K. Fuller located at LaSalle, Illinois, at a very early day, and in September, 1855, migrated to Poweshiek county, Iowa, locating in the town of Grinnell when that now prosperous little city was first founded. He came to Sac county about 1878 and for two years lived on a farm. He removed to Early when the town was started, and here established the Bank of Early, a private bank, and in 1890 he organized the State Bank of Early. He

thus became one of the pioneer bankers of this locality. The success of this bank was largely due to his earnest and able efforts, for he was a far-seeing business man of unimpeachable honesty and high integrity.

Six children were born of the marriage of S. K. and Mary Ann (Swartauf) Fuller: Two children died in infancy; E. M. Fuller lives at Long Branch, California; E. C. Fuller, the immediate subject of this sketch, was the fourth in order of birth; Mrs. Helen G. Wood died in April, 1912; S. C. Fuller died at Imperial, California, in November, 1913.

E. C. Fuller came to Sac county, Iowa, May 30, 1875, and located on section 7 in Boyer Valley township, where he bought two hundred and ten acres of land at fifteen dollars per acre. He later purchased two hundred and forty acres more at a cost of twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre. He purchased additional land from time to time until his holdings included over four hundred and fifty acres in one tract, two hundred and ninety-two acres in Boyer Valley township and one hundred and sixty acres in Cook township. He still retains the first farm he purchased, and is the owner of two other fine farms. He has one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota and three hundred and eighteen acres near Spirit Lake, Dickinson county, Iowa.

Mr. Fuller lived on the farm until 1888, when he removed to Early, Iowa. For a period of twenty years or more he dealt extensively in live stock. For five years he conducted a meat market. He also owned a drug store for two years and a livery barn for three years, selling the latter only recently. He has a beautiful home in Early, which he purchased in 1903, and which he entirely remodeled into one of the finest and most modern residences of the community.

Mr. Fuller is vice-president and a director of the State Bank of Early and has been connected with this popular institution since its organization. He is a man whose judgment on important business matters is valued highly. Politically, he is a Republican and has taken a more or less active interest in the political affairs of his county. He served two years in the city council and nine years as a member of the school board of Early, as well as holding all the township offices. In 1906 he was elected supervisor from the first district and re-elected in 1912, and it is universally conceded that his official record is without blemish.

Mr. Fuller was married December 24, 1883, to Ida May Spalding, daughter of Calvin Spalding, of Early, and they have one son, Ivan L., who has been a student at Ames, Iowa, and at Morningside College at Sioux City, Iowa.

Fraternally, Mr. Fuller holds membership with the Masons and the Odd Fellows, having attained to the thirty-second degree in Masonry and being a member of Abu Beke Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Sioux City, Iowa. He is a member of the Methodist church. Progressive and public-spirited as a citizen, Mr. Fuller has shown a commendable interest in local affairs and lends his support readily to every enterprise having for its object the advancement of the community. Personally, he is most genial and companionable and his popularity is universal.

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### WILLIAM W. FIELD.

To have lived an honorable and unselfish life which has been devoted in the main to the service of one's fellowmen deserves more than mere mention. To be remembered as a liberal public benefactor and to have achieved renown and become distinguished in two commonwealths of this nation is more achievement than usually falls to the lot of mankind, specifically. We remember an able man by his deeds, for the fact is well established that a good man lives onward and forever in the hearts and minds of the people. Has it not been said, "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes, was not written of the soul?" The body perishes and returns to the earth and air from which it was originally created. The man himself does not die—he lives on and on—and if his life has been worthy and useful, one in which he has won a certain definite measure of renown, he is remembered for years and even ages after his earthly demise. It is a comforting thought which our religion teaches us that death in itself is but a brief separation, to be followed by a grand reunion in the great beyond, whither all souls must travel and rest in peace if the earthly life has merited a just reward. William W. Field is well remembered for his fine attainments, generous philanthropy and statesmanship, qualities which he possessed in abundance. He was a high type of man, descended from a long line of illustrious forbears, and was born into a family that has furnished wonderful geniuses and some of the ablest men in several decades of the family's history. He came of the famous Field family which produced Cyrus W. Field, of the Atlantic cable fame, and Marshall Field, the merchant prince of Chicago, and a long line of illustrious Americans famous in many professions and walks of life.

W. W. Field was born October 31, 1824, in the town of Lancaster, New Hampshire. He was the son of Abel Waite Field, a native of Brattleboro,





H. M. Güde





*Mrs. W. H. Field*





Vermont. The Field genealogy gives the line of Fields in the following succession, beginning with William Field, who was the first in line, followed by his son William (II), Richard (III), John (IV), John (V), Zechariah (VI), John (VII), Zechariah (VIII), John (IX), John (X), Abel W. (XI), and William Wells (XII).

Mr. Field was married October 31, 1850, to Mahala J. Howe, who was born December 1, 1825, and is the daughter of parents whose residence was in the state of New Hampshire, where they both died. She was one of eight children, as follows: Mrs. Hattie S. Taylor, deceased; Mahala J. Field; Edward B., who died in infancy; Sophia Ann, deceased in childhood; Edwin Newell, died in infancy; Althea Perkins, died at the age of twelve years; Mrs. Mary Farnam, deceased; Joseph D., a resident of Lancaster, New Hampshire.

He with whom this review is directly concerned was the son of a farmer who had five sons and a daughter, to each of whom he managed to give the advantages of a good school education, and it was given to William W. to attend the Lancaster Academy and there finish his education. He taught school at the age of seventeen years for three winters in succession. When he was twenty years old his father gave him his "time," or rather gave him permission to make his own way in the world, as he had no property to give, and had done all that he possibly could in preparing him to fight life's battle in the future. In the year 1845 he left home with thirty dollars in gold as his sole possession and went to Medford, Massachusetts, and there worked at farm labor for a period two years. He then engaged in the marble business in the town of Belfast, Maine.

In 1852 Mr. Field came west and stopped at the town of Fenniman, Grant county, Wisconsin, and purchased a tract of land in the vicinity, on which he lived in a log cabin and there made his home. In 1865 he rented his farm and moved to Boscobel, Grant county, for the purpose of affording his children better educational advantages. In January of 1873 he removed to Madison, the capital of Wisconsin.

During the Civil War Mr. Field was a strong advocate of the integrity of the Union and threw the weight of his influence in behalf of the Federal government at all times. His public career in Wisconsin began with his election as a member of the Grant county board of supervisors in 1861, and he served as chairman of this board. He served his county as a member of the state Legislature in the sessions of 1855, 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865, and filled the position of speaker of the House during 1862 and 1863 of his legislative service. He represented the state as presidential elector at large in

1864. Mr. Field was appointed a member of the board of regents of the State University of Wisconsin in 1871, and served in this high office until 1873. In February of 1873 he was elected a member of the executive board of the State Agricultural Society and held this position for several years. In April of 1875 he was elected secretary of the Wisconsin state board of centennial managers.

Mr. Field migrated from Wisconsin to Iowa in 1879 and located in the new town of Odebolt. He purchased an entire section of land in Wheeler township, which he farmed and developed until 1892, when he made a permanent residence in Odebolt. He died in April of 1907. He was very active in financial and civic affairs while residing in Sac county. He was one of the founders and the first president of the First National Bank of Odebolt. While he was especially gifted in the line of public duty, the only office which he cared to accept in the county was the trusteeship of Wheeler township.

Politically, Mr. Field was always allied with the Republican party. He was an attendant and liberal supporter of the Presbyterian church and was a Mason during the greater part of his life. Mrs. Field has been a life-long member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Field was a liberal donor to the fund which was provided for the erection of the handsome public library in Odebolt; in fact, it is a matter of record that he gave a considerable portion of the necessary funds for defraying the cost of the erection of the structure. He did this with the idea of giving some substantial return to the community in which he had prospered. He will long be remembered as one of the main donors of this useful institution.

Something concerning the family history of Mahala J. Howe Field is not inappropriate at this point. The Howe family is a very old one from an American standpoint and numbers among its members and descendants some of the ablest Americans and men and women in all walks of life who have been successful. The family begins with Abraham Howe, who emigrated from England and settled at Malvern, Massachusetts, in the year of 1858. From him have descended five generations of Joseph Howes as they were named respectively and have been prominent in the colonial life of New England. Daniel Howe, the grandsire of Mrs. Field, located in Lancaster, Vermont, in about 1778, and married Eunice Bucknan, a daughter of Capt. Edward Bucknan, one of the leading spirits in the settlement of Lancaster. He was justice of the peace, town clerk and a leader of the community for many years. The father of Mrs. Field, although defective in eyesight, managed to achieve a comfortable competency in life and reared a worthy family. It is worthy of note that Eunice Bucknan, grandmother of Mrs. Field, was the

first white child born in Lancaster. Joseph D. Field, brother of Mrs. Field, is one of the substantial and leading citizens of the Lancaster community and is the owner of a very fine stock farm, which is noted for the quality of its pure bred live stock. At the present writing, Mr. Howe and wife are the guests at the Field home.

Mrs. Mahala J. Field resides in the old homestead in Odebolt and is one of the respected and best loved ladies of the city. She is the mother of the following children: Mrs. Jennie Bashford, wife of Rev. James W. Bashford, a bishop of the Methodist church, and at present a missionary located in Peking, China; Mrs. Ella Frank, wife of a live-stock ranchman, located at Ree Heights, South Dakota, and who is the mother of two children, Marion Feild, also a missionary at Nanking, China, and Howard Price Frank, of Natick, Massachusetts.

It was not to be expected that W. W. Field could refrain from taking a prominent and active part in state affairs after he became a resident of Iowa, but he turned his energies in the direction of his favorite avocation, that of the agriculturist. He became vice-president of the State Agricultural Society and also served as president of this great body. He was a strong and able exponent of better and more improved farming methods and wielded quite an influence in bettering conditions for the farmers of the state. He will long be remembered as one of the ablest and most widely known men who have served in the councils of the state board.

A distinct loss to the community and state at large occurred with his demise, and he was sincerely mourned by hundreds and thousands who knew him and who knew of his many excellent qualities and accomplishments as a citizen and statesman. Were this volume without the foregoing memoir it would be incomplete.

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#### HON. D. CARR EARLY.

Invulnerable integrity and high purpose characterized the life of Hon. D Carr Early, an honored citizen and representative business man of Sac City, who left an indelible impress upon the civic and industrial annals of the county and upon whose record there rests no shadow of blemish. His strength was as the number of his days, and not only did he accomplish much in connection with the practical affairs of life, but his nature, strong and vigorous, found denotement in kindly tolerance and human sympathy, generous deeds and worthy service. He was a lawyer by profession, who

served his county in several important positions of public trust with signal honor and ability, but a greater part of his long and active career was one of close and fruitful identification with business interests, especially in the line of banking, in which he gained marked prestige.

Among the important factors in the settlement and final development of Sac county, perhaps no one man did more and stood higher in the estimation of his fellow citizens than Judge Early, who was a resident of Sac City and vicinity for more than forty-seven years. In the settlement of new countries there are two classes always found—one, the short stayer, and the other, the permanent settler, who sets his stakes and builds worthily for the oncoming years. The latter class included Mr. Early, whose name is now and ever will be mentioned in connection with Sac county, by reason of his energy and tact, as well as for his actual accomplishments.

Judge Early was born April 21, 1830, near the village of Feesburg, Brown county, Ohio, the son of Andrew Early, a native of Kentucky, whose wife's name was Fanny Summers. Mr. Early's ancestors came from Ireland in the eighteenth century and settled in Hampshire county, Virginia. Thomas Early was the great-grandfather of Judge Early and the father of David Early, who was born in Hampshire county, Virginia, in 1774. David Early removed to Kentucky in 1778 and settled in Fleming county, where Andrew Early, father of D. Carr Early, was born. Andrew was born December 4, 1803, and removed to Brown county, Ohio, in the year 1826.

D. Carr Early was reared on a farm, but diligently improved every spare moment in gaining an education. At the age of eighteen years he commenced school teaching, at the same time taking up the study of Latin. His father allowed him two acres of land, which he planted to corn and tobacco. The first season he made one hundred and forty-five dollars, with which money he went to school at Felicity, Clermont county, Ohio, called Springtown Institute, where he was especially proficient in mathematics. He then went to Nelson county, Kentucky, where his uncle, Walter Summers, lived. There he taught school for one year, with the proceeds of which he was enabled to attend school further. He then returned to Ohio and began reading law with H. L. Penn, of Georgetown. By money earned as a teacher, he continued his studies and at the end of two years was admitted to the bar of the supreme court. He then taught two years longer, as he needed the money in starting out as a lawyer. In 1856 he set his face toward the West, making nearly the entire trip on foot. He had determined to be the owner of a quarter section of government land, with timber upon it if possible, and he found that tract in Sac county, Iowa. He and Andrew J.

Taylor, a companion, selected claims May 5, 1856. He went on foot to the land office at Sioux City to file his pre-emption papers, while Taylor, his chum, remained and cut logs and made clapboards for a cabin, which was erected on the line of the two claims. Here the two young men dwelt in rude fashion as real pioneers of Sac county, for three months, until they could pay for their lands under the pre-emption laws.

Mr. Early went back to Fleming county, Kentucky, and there taught school the next winter, but in the spring of 1857 returned to Sac county, coming back by boat to Sioux City. During this water trip he freed himself of the fever and ague which had troubled him the season before. He then located in Sac City, then a village of only three or four log houses, including one erected for a school house. He at once engaged to teach the pioneer school, but after teaching seven days he resigned to accept the office of county treasurer and recorder; F. M. Cory had been elected, but preferred to have another perform his duties. Mr. Early was an expert penman and an excellent accountant. He was called upon to draw many legal papers for the incoming settlers, in connection, generally, with their land claims and titles. Much of the land was known as military land and had been taken up with army scrip. He kept a careful list of all non-resident lands and paid taxes for the owners of the same, and thus laid the foundation for his future fortune.

Sac county was heavily in debt and county warrants were at a discount, from fifty to sixty cents on a dollar being all they were actually worth, but when taken in payment for taxes were worth their face. He sold his land and bought county warrants, doubling his money by using them in payment of taxes for his clients. At the end of Mr. Cory's term as treasurer and recorder, Mr. Early was elected to take that combined office, and was repeatedly re-elected several years. He served as county judge one year, but refused further to hold such office, or any other, save that he did consent to serve as mayor of his city and was a national delegate for James G. Blaine in 1884. He drifted into the banking business and made money rapidly. He was director and president of the Sac County Bank—later known as the Sac County State Bank—and was also director of both state and national banks in Sac City. He reaped his reward, as progress went forward in the new country, but he never forgot those less fortunate and was ever public spirited and generous. He put many thousand dollars into the old railroad line from Sac City to Wall Lake, and finally donated the same to the Chicago & Northwestern Company when they agreed to operate the road for not less than twenty years. The court houses, churches, the old

institute and many other local enterprises received liberally from his purse. In 1876 he built his fine brick mansion—then the best in western Iowa—at a cost of twenty thousand dollars, and aided in building the opera house block, he owning three-fourths of the stock in the company.

D. Carr Early was happily married December 9, 1859, to Harriet V. Wren, who died March 26, 1864, and three days before her death her second child was born. The issue by this marriage was Ossian Carr, of San Jose, California, and Walter Francis, deceased at the age of twenty years, while attending college at Valparaiso, Indiana. On January 1, 1865, Mr. Early was married to Sarah A. Wren, who was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, and when a child of eleven years came to Iowa with her parents, Washington Wade and Maria (Frame) Wren, in the fall of 1857 and settled on a farm five miles south of Sac City, where they pre-empted land. To Judge and Mrs. Early four children were born as follows: Quincy Eugene, who died in 1909; Lulu Maud, deceased; Lola Mae, wife of George B. Perkins; Doud Cady, who died at the age of nine years.

Judge Early was an enthusiastic Freemason, having united in 1852 and helped to develop the order in Sac City. He was an honored member of Occidental Lodge No. 178; Sac City Chapter No. 18, Order of the Eastern Star; Darius Chapter No. 58, Royal Arch Masons; Rose Croix Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar; Des Moines Consistory No. 37, Scottish Rite Masonry; Za-Ga-Zig Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

Judge Early's father and grandfather were both of the Presbyterian faith, but he was not truly a Christian by profession until aged about fifty years, when he united with the Presbyterian church at Sac City and gave liberally toward the support of that as well as towards all other denominations in his vicinity.

Politically, he of whom this memoir is written was an uncompromising Republican—never scratched his ticket and always attended caucuses and primary elections. He was greatly beloved by the poor people in his community, as well as by those upon whom fortune had smiled.

Of such worthy characters the world has none too many.

Judge Early was called by death August 4, 1903, and the community felt a distinct loss in the passing of this esteemed citizen. His influence had touched with beneficence the civic and business life of his home county and city and his name merits a place of honor on the roster of those who have contributed in generous measure to the development and progress of the city and county which was so long the scene of his earnest and effective endeavors.



## JACOB W. HARTSELL.

Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in the attaining of a due measure of success, but in following out the career of one who has attained success by his own efforts there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible, and thus there is granted an objective incentive and inspiration. The qualities which have made Mr. Hartsell, the mayor of Early, one of the prominent and successful men of that city, have also brought him the esteem of his fellow townsmen, for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Jacob W. Hartsell, mayor of Early, Iowa, and prosperous farmer of Sac county, was born April 6, 1853, in Mercer county, Illinois. His parents were Harrison and Elizabeth (Unangst) Hartsell, who were both natives of New Jersey. They came west in the early history of Illinois and settled in Mercer county, that state, where they both died. They reared a family of six children: Charles, of Preston, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Shearer, of Lorimer, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth Moler, of Stuart, Iowa; Elijah, also of Stuart, Iowa; Ezra, deceased, and Jacob W., with whom this narrative deals.

Jacob W. Hartsell was educated in the schools of Mercer county, Illinois, and, after marrying in that state, came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1882, and purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Cook township, and continued to reside on this farm until he moved to Early in 1905. In 1909 he was elected mayor of Early and has been filling that important position up until the present time. Since taking charge of the executive chair he has installed an electric light plant, at a cost of ten thousand dollars, and the city now boasts of handsome boulevard lights, which gives it a very attractive appearance at night. He has been a strong advocate of all town improvements and has given an administration to the citizens of Early which has been satisfactory in every way.

Mr. Hartsell was married in 1877 to Amanda McLaughlin, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McLaughlin, of Mercer county, Illinois, and to this union there have been born five children, James, Charles, Vernon, Nellie and Ruth. James and Charles are now on the home farm, Vernon is farming near Early and Nellie resides on a farm near the same place, while Ruth remains with her parents.

Politically, Mr. Hartsell is a Democrat and is a firm believer of the principles as set forth by that party and advocated by President Wilson. His party has honored him by electing him to the office of mayor of Early, while

he has honored his party by giving his services, not only for the benefit of the members of his own party, but for all the citizens of the city, irrespective of their politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, while he belongs to the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. The members of the family are all Presbyterians and render that church their earnest support. Mr. Hartsell is, first of all, distinctly a man of the people, whose interests he has at heart and for whom he wouldn't hesitate to make any reasonable sacrifice. He believes in the ultimate glorious destiny of our free institutions and that the best way to realize that destiny is for each member of the body politic to live up to his highest ideals of right, which, to the best of his ability, Mr. Hartsell has endeavored to do.

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#### HON. EUGENE CRISS.

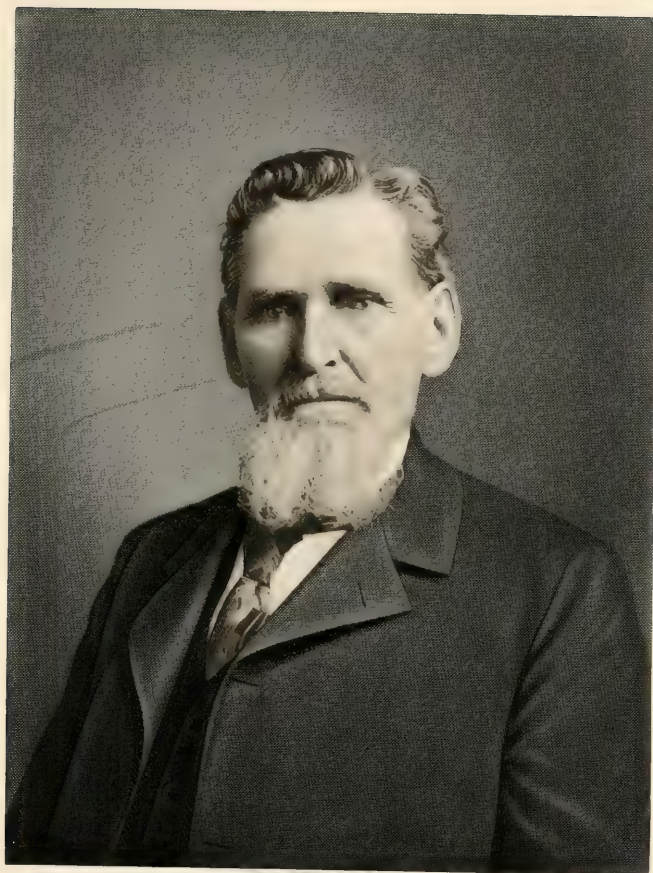
The name of Judge Eugene Criss figures closely within the pages devoted to the history of Sac county, and he is best remembered as "the father of Sac City." He, in fact, founded the city and assisted in its future development. He was the friend and adviser of scores of settlers, to whom his words of counsel were guiding stones in their pathway of redemption of the prairie lands and their emergence from the embryo state into a landscape of smiling meadows and substantial homes. His value to the county as a citizen and official during the pioneer days can not be properly estimated. He was a man among men in the old days when men of integrity and iron resolution were needed.

Judge Eugene Criss was born in West Virginia and reared in the state of Maryland, the son of Michael N. Criss. His birth occurred July 27, 1822, on a farm. After his marriage he and his wife resided on the parental farm until their removal to Illinois, in October of 1844. They rented a farm in northwestern Illinois, Jo Daviess county, for a period of two years. In the meantime, Mr. Criss worked in the lead mines of the vicinity for a period of three years while conducting his farming operations. He then engaged in the mercantile business in the town of Shullsburg, Wisconsin, for a period of eleven years. In the spring of 1855 he loaded his stock of merchandise on a covered wagon and commenced the long overland journey to Sac county, Iowa. He varied the monotony of the journey by trading with the farmers on the way, replenishing his stock of goods from time to time. His ostensible purpose in





*Mrs. Frances Criss*



*Eugene Criss*



leaving Wisconsin was to hunt for a location wherein he intended to establish himself with his business permanently. On the way he heard of the rich lands to the westward awaiting the magic touch of the settler's ax and the industry of the husbandman. He decided upon Sac county and arrived on the banks of the Raccoon in the month of October, 1855. He at once began the erection of a log building of a story and one-half to house his store of goods, and built a log cabin, which was pointed out for years as the first cabin built in Sac City. Judge Criss had a natural liking and an inborn aptitude for agriculture, and as soon as possible he became possessed of four hundred acres of excellent farm land, which he cultivated up to the time of his death. Seeing the possibilities of the development of the lumbering industry, he erected a saw mill, which he operated for a number of years, the output of the mill finding a ready sale among the incoming settlers. He erected the first flouring mill in Sac City and built the famous old mill dam, which is known as a noted landmark in Sac City to this day. In turn he was a miller, lumberman, successful merchant and farmer, filling these diversified and very necessary occupations with credit to himself, large personal benefit and for the convenience of his fellow citizens. Judge Criss naturally became the owner of a very large acreage of Sac county land, and was one of the largest land owners of western Iowa previous to his death. He was the first postmaster of Sac City, and was likewise the first county judge, upon the initial organization of the county, in which he took an active part. He served several terms as county judge and performed duties very similar to those now devolving upon the county supervisors. In 1868 further honors were conferred upon him by his fellow citizens, who sent him to represent the district in the state Legislature. Later he was a candidate for state senator. During the Civil War he served as provost marshal of the district, with his headquarters at Fort Dodge. His territory during the war embraced practically all of western Iowa. Judge Criss was a prominent member of the Freemasons and a worshiper in the Methodist Episcopal faith.

Judge Eugene Criss was married July 27, 1843, to Frances Hall, daughter of Jesse and Sarah Hall, who removed from their ancestral home to a farm in Preston county, West Virginia, in 1825. To this union were born the following children: Mary Jane Wine, who was born in February, 1844, and resides in Sac City; James L., born in November, 1846, and now a resident of Omaha, Nebraska; Helen V. Davis, deceased, born in the state of Illinois in 1848; William H. Criss, of Sac City; Lola M. Beimer, deceased. Three



grandchildren. Miss Neva Beimer, Eugene and Clifford Beimer, make their home with their grandmother.

Frances Hall Criss was born on a farm in Monongahela county, West Virginia, May 16, 1823. It is not given to many women to have lived to an extreme age and to have seen the development of a rich and prosperous section of country, and to have been the first resident of a beautiful and wealthy city and watched with loving gaze its expansion during the course of half a century of progress. We revere the pioneers and cherish them on account of their sterling qualities and long associations with the body politic. Frances Criss has been a resident of Sac City for upward of fifty years. She has attained the great age of ninety-one years and is yet in possession of all her faculties and in sound bodily health. She has seen the unfolding of a landscape of wilderness and prairie into a thriving and populous community enjoying all the luxuries and conveniences of modern-day civilization. She has resided in Sac City since the inception of the town, and has taken an active part, in conjunction with her distinguished and able husband, in assisting in its settlement and development. "Grandma Criss," as she is affectionately called by her intimates and friends, is a living embodiment of all that is best and noblest of womankind. She cherishes the memories of by-gone, halcyon days, when her stalwart husband was taking such an important and energetic part in the building up of his adopted community.

One of the most notable occurrences in the history of Sac county occurred July 27, 1902, the occasion being the eightieth birthday anniversary of the honorable gentleman whom this biography chronicles. A great barbecue was held in honor of the Judge's birthday, to which he invited the people of the surrounding country. The scene of the immense gathering was in the beautiful Fair Grounds park, just east of the city. It was a gathering notable for the number of friends and pioneers who assembled to do honor to the aged citizen whose days on earth were even then numbered. The entire day was given over to partaking of the hospitality of the Judge, and it was long remembered as a gala occasion throughout the countryside. Several oxen were roasted whole, and other viands were supplied by the donor in profusion. The people of the entire section for many miles around were invited whole-heartedly to come to Sac City, and three thousand five hundred assisted the Judge in celebrating his notable anniversary. He did not long survive the happy occasion, however. On March 11, 1903, was closed a most eventful and useful life, and the kindly old gentleman was mourned by thousands who would miss his benign presence for long years to come.

## SAMUEL L. WATT.

The pages of this volume abound with biographies of men who were pioneers in the true sense of the word. To have been a real pioneer in the development of such an important part of the great commonwealth of Iowa is a distinction of merit and a matter of pride for the one who is classed among the interesting group of men whose lives and deeds are recorded herein. In Sac county we have two classes of pioneers—those who were actually among the very first settlers and those who came later in the greater period of development. Not many of those who bore the brunt of the first battle of redeeming the land from a wilderness remain for the present generation to honor. They were of a high type of manhood, and descended from a race of people who have been ever in the forefront of pushing onward the path of empire. Among the few "old settlers" remaining who occupy a high place in the esteem of their fellow men is Samuel L. Watt, a record of whose career since boyhood reads like romance rather than fact. He comes of the good old Buckeye stock, which in turn traces its forbears to Kentucky, and thence across the ocean to the North of Ireland and across the intervening waters to Scotland.

Samuel L. Watt, former secretary of the Sac County Fair Association, was born December 5, 1849, in Kenton, Hardin county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel L. and Lydia Margaret (Leach) Watt, natives of Kentucky and Pennsylvania respectively. Samuel L., Sr., was reared in Kentucky and on attaining his majority removed to Hardin county, Ohio, and was one of the pioneers in the settlement and development of this division of the state of Ohio. However, he was not satisfied to remain and spend his life in Ohio, and accordingly, in the prime of manhood, he migrated to Sac county in October, 1855. He was accompanied by his wife and several children on the journey to the new West. His family consisted of seven children by a first marriage as follows: James, Thomas, Deborah, Robert, Harriet, Nancy, and Christina (Leach), wife of Andrew Leach. By a second marriage there were five children: Olive G., wife of William Conley (married in Sac county); John J.; Samuel L.; Lydia M., wife of John Stocker; Sydney, the wife of G. L. Dobson; a daughter, Sarah Frances (Swan), who was born in Sac county.

The family set out from the old Hardin county home with a wagon or "prairie schooner," hauled by an ox-team, one horse and buggy, and a few milch cows and household effects. The trip was a source of continuous wonder to the several small children included in the happy family party. They

traveled by easy stages across Ohio, northern Indiana and Illinois, by way of the regular traveled route taken by the pioneers who were coming in an ever-increasing stream to the great new lands of the Hawkeye country. Game was plentiful after they left the thickly settled and older regions and the members of the Watt family feasted royally from the results of hunting forays into the prairie lands and timber. Arriving at their destination in Sac county, the men folks immediately set about the erection of a log cabin which served for their habitation for several years. The timber for this cabin was cut and hewn from the great forest trees of oak and walnut which were plentiful along the banks of the Raccoon river. Kind neighbors willingly lent their assistance in the erection of the cabin. This log house served as a habitation for the Waits for several years and was later supplanted by a more pretentious frame dwelling.

The first winter was a very fine, open season and the immigrants from the East fared comfortably. The larder was always full of game and fish which could be obtained in abundance. The following winter of 1856-1857 was a terrible one for the settlers, however, and much suffering ensued on account of the extreme cold and the great depth of the snow which lay upon the ground from early fall until late in the spring. Mr. Watt states that they never experienced any trouble with the Indians who frequently camped in the neighborhood and that their greatest difficulty was in getting to market with produce and obtaining the necessary supplies of food and clothing. They hauled their first crop of wheat to the Cedar Falls market, one hundred miles away. The family actually subsisted on one dollar's worth of sugar during one whole year. The elder Watt was a cripple, and was dependent to a great extent upon his children for help about the farm. The oldest son, James, accompanied by his sister Harriet, journeyed to California in 1859, and thus deprived the family of a mainstay, which made it necessary for the younger children to assume the burden and assist the father in every way possible. Christina followed in 1862. For several years it was a hard pull for them to make ends meet, but they bore their troubles with true pioneer fortitude and things eventually righted themselves and prosperity smiled upon them. Samuel L., Sr., moved to Sac City after a number of years, but, after two years' residence in town, he returned to the farm and later removed to Ohio. He died at the residence of his daughter Sydney in 1875. Mrs. Watt died in 1873. It is recorded that the elder Watt took a sub-contract for carrying the mail from Fort Dodge to Sioux City for a term of years, but owing to the father's crippled condition it was necessary for the children to perform the task. Samuel L., the son, began at this task

when but thirteen years of age. It was considerable responsibility for a boy upon a young lad, but he successfully performed the work for a term of three years during the summer months, and attended the primitive district school in the vicinity during the winter months. Judge D. Carr Early was Mr. Watt's first teacher. Owing to the necessity of devoting the greater part of his time to the farm work, his school training was necessarily irregular and intermittent and was confined to the three R's.

When twenty-four years of age, in 1873, Mr. Watt purchased a tract of wild, unbroken land and embarked upon the occupation of herding and raising cattle for the markets. Previous to this time he had invested his savings in a small tract of land south of Sac City in 1871 and made a trip to the far West. For two years he drove freighting teams in the mining regions of California, Nevada and Colorado. His route reached from the region of Death Valley to Denver and the mountains north of the city. His experience while performing his hazardous tasks in such a wild, unsettled country was very exciting and he met with many thrilling adventures.

Upon his return from the West to Sac county in 1873 he ranged cattle on his land until the fall of 1881. He would buy up large herds of feeders and fatten them for the markets. In the fall of 1881 Mr. Watt sold his live stock, rented out his land and removed to Buena Vista, where he embarked in the livery business for one year. In 1882 he removed to Sac City and has since been engaged in various business enterprises in which he has achieved marked success. At various times he has been the proprietor of a meat market, furniture store, etc., which he usually conducted for a time and sold out with profit to himself. Mr. Watt has been a capitalist in a large way for a number of years and has dealt extensively in Iowa land, having at one time owned over one thousand acres of good Hawkeye soil. His holdings but a few years back embraced one thousand acres of land in Sac county and over four hundred acres of South Dakota land. However, he has recently sold the greater part of his extensive farm holdings and given the proceeds to his children. He still retains a valuable tract of forty acres adjoining the prosperous and growing city of Sioux Falls, and owns four farms in Sac county totalling seven hundred acres. He has one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the corporation of Sac City on which he has raised live stock in large numbers. Mr. Watt is a lover of horses and an excellent judge of this useful animal, having as high as sixty head of draft and road animals on his nearby farm in one season.

Mr. Watt, since 1905, has been one of the largest stockholders and the efficient secretary of the Sac County Fair Association. He purchased the

property of the old, decadent fair association at sheriff's sale and applied business methods to an enterprise which was destined to reflect credit upon himself and his associates. The association was immediately reorganized through his efforts, the grounds overhauled and placed in splendid condition and an era of prosperity soon set in for the fair association which has been continued from year to year. The Sac County Fair, during the past nine years, has been a wonderful success in every way. The live stock displays and the exhibits have been among the best in the state, and the attendance at the annual fair held each year has been constantly on the increase. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank of Sac City. In politics, Mr. Watt is a Democrat, and has ever been an active worker in the ranks and a leader of his party. He has served as city councilman and assessor. He values his membership in the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Watt's wedded life has been in keeping with his highly successful career in other lines. He was united in marriage in December, 1873, with Rosa P. Allen, of Sac City, who was born in the year 1853 and died in 1897. She was the daughter of Washington Allen, an early pioneer settler of Sac county.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Watt: Ina Belle (Maker), of Sac City, who is the mother of two children, Catherine Edna and Vivian. The second child born is Willis Walford Watt, a farmer residing northwest of Sac City. Willis served eight years in the United States regular army and spent four years in active warfare in the Philippine islands, having made two trips around the world while in the service. The third child is Edna Pearl (Strohmeier), wife of Gus W. Strohmeier, acting secretary of the Sac County Fair Association, and who is engaged in the automobile business in Sac City.

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#### HENRY HANSON.

There is no section of the United States which has held and still now holds greater promise for investors in lands than western Iowa and especially Sac county. It is a fact that land values have trebled and quadrupled in value during the last decade and are still on the upward swing. Consequently the men who have had the foresight and the faith in the future of the country to continue to invest in the farm lands have become prosperous and wealthy. It was never designed by Providence that men should be poor

and wretched. There are enough good things in the world for every one—and the best things come from the bosom of Mother Earth. He who gets close to the earth and uses skill in combining the elements of soil and air in producing the crops which are always in demand for the purpose of feeding the millions of inhabitants of this broad land is performing a high vocation and is certain of success. Henry Hanson, of Odebolt, is a citizen who began his career in Sac county in tilling the soil and has enlarged his operations to such an extent that he is one of the most important factors in the community and one of the largest estate holders in the county. Mr. Hanson is a native of a foreign land which has contributed some of the best citizens in many of the Western states. The Swedish-Americans of Sac county are among the leaders in all walks of life, and are universally respected as men of intelligence and pronounced ability everywhere they have settled.

Henry Hanson, farmer, of Odebolt, Iowa, was born in Sweden June 1, 1849, the son of Jens and Kirsty Hanson. Jens Hanson died a few weeks before Henry's birth. His mother later came to America and died here. At the age of nineteen years Mr. Hanson crossed the ocean and landed in New York City in September of 1868. He spent six years at various pursuits in New York City and then came westward. In the spring of 1874 he came to Sac county and, in partnership with A. E. Johnson, purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Wheeler township. They operated this tract together until 1877. The land cost them six dollars and sixty cents an acre and was purchased on a time contract with five years' time allotted them in which to complete the payments. In 1877 each of the partners took one hundred and sixty acres for his own use. Mr. Hanson added eighty acres to his quarter in 1876 at a cost of five dollars and fifty cents an acre. In the year 1880 he disposed of his Wheeler township tract of two hundred and forty acres and invested in one hundred and fifty acres adjoining the town of Odebolt. Mr. Hanson has dealt considerably in farm lands since his first venture and at the present time is the owner of a total of eight hundred and ninety acres of land in Wheeler township. His home farm, occupied by his son, is the model farm of the southwest portion of Sac county and fitted with beautiful buildings and every convenience for the carrying on of scientific farming operations.

In 1877 he made his residence in Odebolt and located his family here in 1878, when the town was first started. He immediately took advantage of his opportunity and engaged in the buying of grain and live stock for shipment to the markets. He continued in this pursuit until 1883 and was

the pioneer grain dealer of Odebolt. He began as manager of the Swedish Farmers' Elevator Company and soon bought out the business, which was the second grain buying establishment in the city. Since 1883 he has devoted his time to looking after his Crawford and Sac county agricultural interests and his business affairs.

Mr. Hanson is a large stockholder and vice-president of the First National Bank of Odebolt. He has a large modern residence on Lincoln avenue. He is a Republican in politics and devotes a considerable portion of his time to civic affairs, being a member of the school board and having served on the city council. His family attend the Presbyterian church, and he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has taken the degrees in Masonry in the Sac City chapter and commandery.

Mr. Hanson's marriage occurred in 1872 to Augusta Eckblom, a native of Sweden. They are the parents of four children, as follows: Mrs. Robertina Von Marell, of Phoenix, Arizona; Lillian, the efficient librarian of the Odebolt public library; George, on the home farm in Wheeler township; Grace, at home.

By a life of persevering industry and fair and honest dealings Mr. Hanson has acquired a fair share of this world's goods, and, what is of more value, the respect and esteem of every one with whom he has come in contact. He and his family occupy an enviable social standing in their community, in which they are among the pioneers, and possess in a marked degree that happy faculty of making steady friendships.

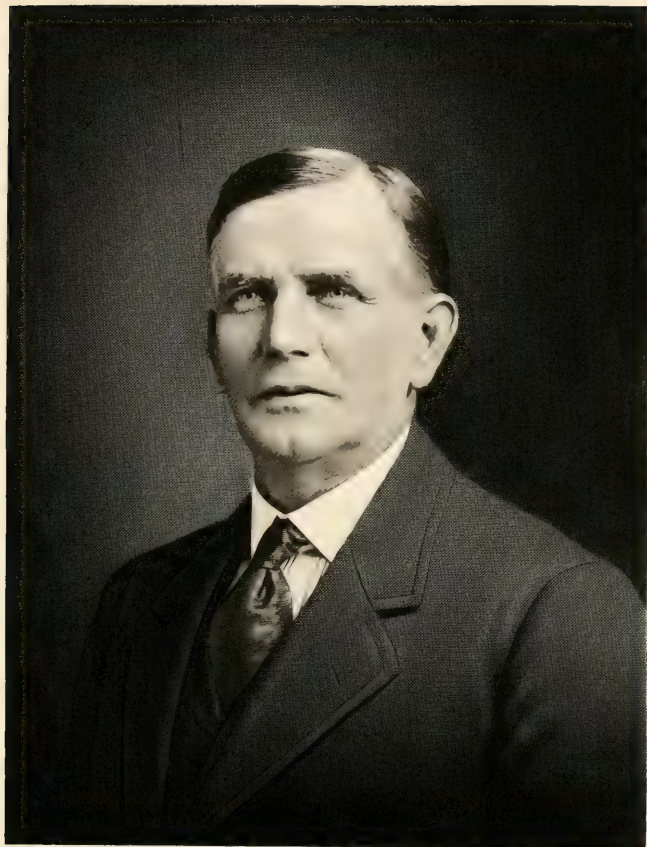
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### CHARLES L. EARLY.

The annals of the West teem with stories of young men of ability and energy who have come from eastern points and been successful in many lines of endeavor. Some have succeeded in commerce and as agriculturists, while others have made marked progress in the useful line of endeavor as public officials. The name of Early is one that is well and favorably known in Sac county. The name attaches to itself a significance that the bearer has achieved marked success along his chosen path of endeavor.

Charles L. Early, postmaster of Sac City, is ranked among the pioneers of the county, who came here and seized the opportunity which presented itself and has succeeded, not only in a worldly way, but enjoys the respect and esteem of a large concourse of friends and well wishers. Public spirited to a





Chas R Early  
1914



high degree, he has served the people in many capacities for a long period of years, as a county official, in the halls of the state Legislature, and lastly as an accommodating and conscientious postmaster.

Mr. Early is a native son of the Buckeye state and was born on a farm in Brown county, Ohio, July 27, 1854. He is the son of David Watson Early, a native of Kentucky, and was of Irish ancestry. The ancestors of Charles L. Early came from Ireland in 1740 and settled in the Old Dominion (Virginia). Here they figured in the colonial and revolutionary period as became natural to members of a race who became Americans easily. David Watson Early was the son of David Early, son of Thomas, who was son of William Early, who is said to have emigrated from Ireland about the middle of the eighteenth century.

David was the youngest son of William Early, of Virginia, who migrated to Kentucky in about 1784 and took an active part in the stirring scenes incidental to the settlement of the state. Further research determines the fact that the original progenitors of the Early family in America were Jeremiah and William. From these two brothers have sprung the different members of the family, many of whom have achieved fame, not only in civic affairs but in the pursuit of war. Gen. Jubal Early, of Civil-war fame, was a direct descendant of Jeremiah Early.

The father of Charles L. Early was fifteen years of age when the family removed from Kentucky to Ohio, in the year 1835, and became one of the pioneer families of the state which has contributed her sons and daughters to the upbuilding of many of the greatest western commonwealths. David W. lived to a good old age and died in 1908 at his Brown county home. His wife was Sarah Jane Hook, a native of Adams county, Ohio, and who was reared on the farm adjoining that of the Earlys. She was born in the year 1824 and was deceased in 1885. They reared a family of four children: John Quincy, who resides on the old homestead in Brown county, Ohio; Walter David, deceased; Charles Lee, of whom we are writing; George Andrew, an agriculturist in Brown county, Ohio.

Charles Lee Early was reared to young manhood on the farm. His primary schooling was obtained in the district school not far from the old homestead. Being ambitious, he entered the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, and also studied in the Bentonville Normal College. For a period of three years he followed the profession of teaching in Brown and Adams counties, Ohio. Believing that the West offered a better and more prolific field for the exercise of his talents, in the year 1876 he came to Iowa, first locating in Sac City, where he taught school for one term in Clinton

township in the winter of 1876. The following year he was employed in the Sac County Bank, one of the pioneer banking institutions of the city. He served as deputy county treasurer from 1878 to 1882, inclusive. He then formed a partnership with Phil Schaller for the purpose of conducting a real estate and loan business, the firm being known for a period of six years as Schaller & Early. It is said that this firm accomplished a great deal in the promotion of the settlement of Sac county and assisted many farmers in various ways through the troublesome times incident to the settlement of the county.

Mr. Early turned his attention to civic affairs and, in the fall of 1888, was elected clerk of the district court, in which office he served the people ably and well for four years. This did not seem to be sufficient reward for his attainments, and in the fall of 1893 the people of Sac county sent him to the state capital to sit in the halls of the state Legislature. He was re-elected to this important office for the second term and served in the sessions of 1894 and 1896, and also during the extra session of 1897. It is to Mr. Early's credit that while in the legislative body as a member he carefully looked to the interests of the people and his constituents.

After serving in the Legislature he again turned his attention to the real estate and loan business, being rewarded with his usual success until his appointment as postmaster of Sac City in 1906 under President Roosevelt. He was reappointed in 1910, and at this writing is serving his second term. His career in his official capacity has justified the confidence reposed in him by the government and his friends and fellow citizens. At no time in the history of the postoffice in Sac City has the office received greater undivided attention and been more ably conducted than during Mr. Early's regime. Mindful of the fact that land is the basis of all values and that nothing is more valuable than real estate ownership, Mr. Early has acquired three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land in his home county, and is also the owner of a half section of land in North Dakota. He has one of the finest homes in the city which he has recently remodeled and provided with accessories for the indulgence of his hobby, if it can be called such. For, be it known, like many other successful men, he has never neglected to follow up the development of mind commenced in his younger days. Mr. Early is an amateur astronomer of known ability and attainments. For years he has studied the heavens from a scientific point of view. He has probably the only privately equipped observatory in western Iowa, and it is said that he loves nothing better than to ensconce himself in the glass enclosed chamber erected on the roof of his dwelling and spend hours in gazing through his telescope and making observations of the heavenly bodies.

Mr. Early is a man of considerable inventive ability and the present-day adding machines are constructed along lines originally designed by him about 1882. At that time he perfected a model embodying the essential features of the machine and filed a caveat in the patent office, but unfortunately permitted this to lapse, and thus lost the recognition deserved, though it is quite generally known among those directly interested that his genius conceived the primary idea. He claims to be the original inventor of the adding feature of all the modern adding machines. His invention provided for a bank of eighty-one keys and the adding was automatic the same as the comptometer. He makes no claim to inventing the printing and listing features of the present day adding machines.

Mr. Early is a director in the Sac County State Bank, one of the strongest financial institutions in western Iowa. He has had considerable banking experience during his career, having at one time, from 1882 to 1884, operated a bank in the town of Schaller, Iowa, in partnership with Phil Schaller and which was known as the Schaller & Early Bank. During his residence in Schaller he had considerable to do in the upbuilding of the new municipality, taking an active part in the incorporation of the town and being one of the prime movers in planning the town and arranging the perspective of the beautiful city park of which every resident of Schaller is exceedingly proud. He is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the Sac City Blue Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, holding a membership in the chapter and commandery in Sac City, and valuing very highly his membership in the Mystic Shrine of Des Moines.

Mr. Early's home life has been a happy one in many ways. In June, 1888, he was wedded to Agnes Waddell, a native of Wisconsin and the daughter of Christopher Waddell. To them were born two children: Ruth L., a graduate of St. Catherine's College of Davenport, Iowa, and Esther Early, who is deceased.

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#### ASA PLATT.

To the mind of the historian and biographer the term "pioneer" appeals with an irresistible force and entices investigation which latter-day annals do not require. Such investigation is productive of a wealth of historical material which appeals to the general reader as no other inscribed records present. To his mind, to have been a pioneer and one of the great and noble army of men who have created a wealthy and prosperous neighborhood out of

a raw prairie wilderness is the height of successful attainment. The aged pioneer belongs in a class of his own. Around him and his clusters the memory of halcyon days when the country was a wilderness awaiting the magic touch of the empire builders from the East, whose optimism and mighty endeavors have transformed the rich and fertile lands into a smiling landscape of productive farms and beautiful towns and villages. Asa Platt, of whom these words are transcribed, is a pioneer of Sac county who enjoys the universal respect and friendship of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In many ways he is tenderly regarded as the oracle and final authority on the happenings which have taken place during his long residence in the county. Should a discussion come up regarding the date of some occurrence which has an intimate bearing upon local history, Mr. Platt's store of knowledge and his wonderful memory forms the court of last resort to decide the question at issue. Our historian is indebted to him for much valuable information which is written in the preceding pages of this Sac county history. However, Mr. Platt's prestige is not based entirely upon his pioneer experience, and it is well to record the fact that he ranks as one of the wealthiest, as well as one of the kindest and most useful citizens of the city.

Asa Platt, president of the Sac County State Bank, is a New Englander by virtue of his birth and ancestry. He was born June 20, 1830, in the beautiful old city of Saybrook, Connecticut. His father was Richard Platt and his mother was Maria Turner, both descendants from old colonial families. Richard was the son of Thomas Platt, who was one of five sons from whom the various branches of the family have descended in America. Two brothers located in the state of New York. Senator Thomas Platt was a member of the New York branch of the Platts. Asa's maternal parent, Maria Turner, was the daughter of William Turner, who served with bravery and distinction in the Revolutionary War.

Richard Platt reared a family of nine children: Asa, the eldest, of whom we take pleasure in writing; Catharine (Tritchem), of New York; Eliza (Seeley), deceased; J. O. Platt, of Sac City; Caroline (Baldwin), deceased; J. C. Platt, who resides in Denver, Colorado; Emeline (Trout), deceased. Richard was a farmer, as were many of his relatives and descendants.

Asa Platt, with whom this record is more intimately concerned because of his long connection with the history of Sac county, was reared to early manhood on the ancestral farm in Connecticut and western New York. It was in this practically new neighborhood that his father removed from Connecticut on attaining his majority, and hewed a home from the wilderness. Asa attended school in a small log school house, a fitting place for the training



ot one who was destined to become a pioneer in the great West. The family resided in western New York from 1840 to 1850, and then took up a residence on a farm in Erie county, Pennsylvania.

In the year 1855 Asa journeyed overland to Iowa with the intention of locating in Sac county. The country justified the young man's conception of the richness of the land and in 1856 he pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of government land about one-half mile from Sac City, in Jackson township. This land was unbroken prairie and neighbors were few and far between. The only settlements were along the river in the timber lands. While pre-empting and proving up on his land he lived in Sac City, then an embryo village on the edge of the wilderness of woods and prairie. He built a small house and thus became one of the first citizens of the future city, and now ranks as one of its oldest citizens. Later, Mr. Platt purchased three hundred and twenty acres of fine land adjoining the corporation line which he farmed for a period of thirty years. Practically the greater part of the city is built upon Mr. Platt's original farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He disposed of his farming interests in 1893 and practically retired from active farming operations. However, during a long period of forty years he was an extensive live stock raiser and was interested in the mercantile business in Sac City. Mr. Platt built the first frame house in Sac City at a time when there were but two log cabins in the village. From this small beginning he has had the pleasure of seeing the development and growth of one of the most attractive and enterprising small cities of a state noted for its progressive municipalities. He became interested in banking very early in his career and for the past twenty-six years has been president of the Sac County State Bank, one of the solid financial concerns of western Iowa. During the Civil War he was one of a large number of men who voluntarily enrolled for the purpose of keeping watch of the Indians in order to provide against threatened outbreaks on the part of the red men in this section of Iowa. His activities in the building up of his beloved home city have been extensive and such as commend him favorably to his fellow citizens. He has a nice attractive home, situated upon the brow of the high land which forms the major portion of the site of Sac City and is the owner of several pieces of valuable real estate, consisting of business and residence property, much of which has been erected under his personal supervision in a substantial manner. The Platt building, on Main street of the city, is known as one of the most modern and best built buildings in the city.

Mr. Platt was originally a Whig in politics, and was the son of an old-fashioned Democrat of the Andrew Jackson type. When the Republican



party was formed under the banner of John C. Fremont in 1856, he aligned himself with the party, voting four years later for Abraham Lincoln, and enjoys the distinction of having voted the Republican ticket continuously for nearly sixty years. In fact, he is the only living resident of Sac City who cast his vote for Fremont for President. He has served the people of the county in the important capacity of county supervisor. During the greater part of his life he has been identified with the Presbyterian church and is a liberal supporter of this and kindred denominations.

He of whom this chronicle reads was united in marriage with Adelaide Gray in the year 1851. This lady, who has been his faithful companion and loving wife for over sixty years, was born in the state of Maine, March 5, 1832. To this union have been born four children: Elma (Criss), deceased; Virginia (Irwin), a resident of Long Beach, California; Milton, who was born in the year 1857 and died in 1885; Rosalie (Hayge), of Sac City. The son Milton was the father of two children, one of whom is a contractor in Forrest, Illinois. Mr. Platt has three great-grandchildren, one of whom is twenty years of age.

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#### JUDGE SAMUEL M. ELWOOD.

Iowa has always been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. Perhaps none of the newer states can justly boast of abler jurists or attorneys. Many of them have been men of national fame, and among them whose lives have been passed on a quieter plane there is scarcely a town or city in the state but that boasts of one or more lawyers capable of crossing swords in forensic combat with many of the distinguished legal lights of the country. While the growth and development of the state in the last half century has been most marvelous, viewed from any standpoint, yet of no one class of her citizenship has she greater reason for just pride than her judges and attorneys. In Judge Elwood are found united many of the rare qualities which go to make the successful lawyer and jurist. He possesses, perhaps few of these brilliant, dazzling meteoric qualities which have sometimes flashed along the legal horizon, riveting the gaze and blinding the vision for the moment, then disappearing, leaving little or no trace behind; but rather has those solid and more substantial qualities which shine with a constant luster, shedding light in the dark places with steadiness and continuity.

Samuel M. Elwood, ex-district judge and attorney of Sac City, Iowa,

was born September 17, 1850, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. His parents were Thomas and Jane (Henry) Elwood, of English and Irish descent respectively. In 1854 his parents moved to Grinnell, Iowa, but shortly afterwards moved to a farm in Tama county, Iowa. In 1881 Thomas Elwood moved to Sac City, where his death occurred on March 9, 1888, and his wife died September 14th of the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elwood were the parents of seven children: S. M., with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Nancy J. Cowan, deceased; Mrs. Mary Ellen Martin, of Sac City, Iowa; Mrs. Asenath E. Miller, deceased; Mrs. Margaret I. Campfield, of Sac City; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Newby, of Puyallup, Washington, and Mrs. Harriett M. Hayden, of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Judge Elwood was reared on the farm and attended the schools of his home neighborhood, after which he entered Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa, being only sixteen years of age at the time of his matriculation. After three years' study at Grinnell, he attended the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, where he studied one year. His mother was a cultured woman and was able to be of material assistance to her son in his studies. He studied law and later graduated from the Law School on June 24, 1873, at Ames, Iowa. After his graduation he began the active practice of law at Trayer, Iowa, but after six months of experience he began to teach school, in which he was engaged four months at McPherson, Kansas, after which he traveled in the West for some time. He then returned to Iowa, locating in Sac City on November 1, 1875, where he has continued to live until the present time. He has had a busy and useful career since locating in Sac City and has identified himself with every public movement which had for its end the welfare of his city. He has served as mayor of Sac City for two terms and also been a member of the city school board. In 1895 he was elected district judge of the court and was re-elected at the expiration of his first term, serving in all eight years. For the past twenty-one years he has been a director of the First State Bank and was one of the organizers of that financial institution. He is now a director of the Farmers Savings Bank, of Sac City, and was president of that bank for several years. For ten years he was engaged in the lightning rod business with Mr. Dodds. This business was organized in 1887, and manufactured lightning rods in Sac City for ten years, and later removed to Des Moines. Two years after the factory was removed to Des Moines, Mr. Elwood severed his connection with the firm. In 1898 he began the manufacture of lightning rods under the firm name of Chalfant & Elwood, and two years later this plant was moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where it was incorporated with a

capital stock of forty thousand dollars, and is now known as the Omaha Lightning Rod & Electric Company, and Judge Elwood now owns a controlling interest in this prosperous business. He also started the Elwood Telephone Company on January 1, 1900, and it now has eight hundred phones in the city. The central plant is in a large brick block owned by Mr. Elwood. In addition to all of these interests, he has also invested in land and is at present the owner of one hundred acres in Sac county, one hundred and sixty acres in Minnesota, three hundred and twenty acres in Kansas, two hundred and eighty acres in Nebraska, one hundred and sixty acres in Colorado and twelve hundred acres in Idaho.

Politically, Mr. Elwood is a Republican and as a member of that party has been honored by being elected to office as mayor of his home city and also as district judge. In his religious belief, he and the members of his family are adherents of the Presbyterian church. Fraternally, he is a Mason, and has belonged to that time-honored order for the past thirty-six years, having attained to the Knight Templar degrees.

Judge Elwood was married September 10, 1878, to Sadie J. Darling, and to this union have been born four children: William Drennen, who is a graduate of the electrical engineering course of Ames College, Ames, Iowa, and is now manager of the lightning rod factory in Omaha; Margaret J. graduated from the Sac City Institute, and is now with her parents at home; Charles Sumner, who died December 9, 1908, and Thomas Milton, who died at the age of two.

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#### WILLIAM H. HART.

He of whom this notice is written by the publishers has been the supervising editor of the volume entitled "History of Sac County, Iowa," which the reader now holds. Mr. Hart is one of the leading attorneys of the Sac county bar today.

William H. Hart was born March 4, 1859, in Cedar county, Iowa, son of Jeremiah and Julia A. (Whitson) Hart, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. Julia Whitson was a descendant of the Piatt family of Pennsylvania, John Piatt being the ancestor. The mother of Jeremiah Hart was a native of northern Ireland, and a descendant of Thomas Babington Macauley. Jeremiah came to Iowa about 1855, and was united in marriage in Cedar county, the seat of justice of which is Tipton. Julia A. Whitson had come with her father to Cedar county, Iowa, about 1850.



*H. H. Harb.*



The Hart family came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1882, nearly a third of a century ago. The son, William H., came in the fall of 1880. The family located on a farm in Jackson township, a mile and a half northwest of Sac City. Later in life they removed to the city, where the father, Jeremiah, died at the age of eighty-two years, on September 10, 1910. The wife and mother died July 23, 1910, aged seventy-one years. Their children were: William H., of this memoir; Clarence E., now residing in Sac City, Iowa; Charles, of Sac City, Iowa, and Lee J., of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

William H. Hart obtained his education in the public schools of Clarence, Iowa, and at Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois. He followed teaching in Cedar county, Iowa, for about three years, and deciding to fit himself for the profession of a lawyer, studied with Piatt & Carr, of Tipton, Iowa. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1880, coming to Sac City in November of that year. He served as assistant cashier in the Sac County Bank (now the Sac County State Bank) for five years, and in 1885 formed a partnership with Hon. C. D. Goldsmith, which continued until Mr. Goldsmith was elevated to the bench. In 1890 Mr. Hart formed a business partnership with Hon. Phil Schaller, in which they carried on an extensive business in law, loans and real estate. This partnership continued until the death of Mr. Schaller in July, 1911.

Politically, Mr. Hart has always been identified with the Republican party, believing that this party best represents the interests of American citizens. Among the various offices he has filled with credit to himself, may be mentioned that of county attorney for Sac county, which position he filled for two terms, equal to four years; mayor of Sac City one term; secretary of the school board in Sac City twenty-seven years, or since 1886; city recorder and treasurer, and the attorney for the commissioners on insanity of the county for fifteen years. In all of these various public positions Mr. Hart has seemed to be the right man in the right place, and has given almost universal satisfaction. His knowledge of the law, his clear-headed and intellectual grasp of the situation, at all times, has made him peculiarly fitted to serve in these various capacities.

Mr. Hart is of the Presbyterian faith and has been an elder in this church for more than twenty years, and was twice elected to the general assembly of the church.

Fraternally, Mr. Hart is connected with the blue lodge, chapter, commandery and council of the Masonic order, as well as holding membership with the Mystic Shriners at Des Moines. He is well informed in the workings of this most ancient and honorable order. He was custodian of the

grand chapter of Iowa for six years, and grand high priest of the grand chapter in 1906.

Mr. Hart was united in marriage March 31, 1881, at Clarence, Iowa, to Anna Greig, a native of Canada, and the daughter of James and Jeanette Greig.

Unlike the man who goes through life with the sound of a trumpet and full of egotism, making many warm friends and also many enemies, Mr. Hart has, during all the years of his career in Sac county, gone about his daily duties, both as an attorney and as a public official, in a graceful, gentlemanly manner, never fearing to stand for the right as he has understood the right, yet without causing opposition or friction where duty did not demand it. It goes without saying that he counts his friends in Sac county and northwestern Iowa by the one word, "legion."

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#### PROF. JOHN R. SLACKS.

The final causes which shape the fortunes of individual men and the destinies of states are often the same. They are usually remote and obscure; their influence wholly unexpected until declared by results. When they inspire men to the exercise of courage, self denial and industry, and call into play the higher moral elements; lead men to risk all upon conviction, faith—such causes lead to the planting of great states, great people and great movements. That country is the greatest which produces the greatest and most manly men, and the intrinsic safety depends not so much upon measures and methods as upon that true manhood from whose deep sources all that is precious and permanent in life must at last proceed. Pursuing each his personal good by exalted means, they work this out as a logical result; they have wrought on the lines of the greatest good.

The teaching profession is one which calls for a high order of intelligence. He whose duty it is to shape the minds and inclinations of the youth of the land has a solemn and self-sacrificing duty to perform. Those among this noble profession who are gifted with the ability to rise to an executive position and be held responsible for the success of the entire educational system of an important division of the commonwealth are doubly burdened with responsibility and are given greater opportunities for the accomplishment of much good and, mayhap, see the realization of their cherished ideals along educational lines. In this respect, the biographer is more than pleased to



write of the accomplishments of John R. Slacks, county superintendent of schools, Sac county. Professor Slacks, by reason of his tireless ambition and conscientious and unrelenting efforts to improve the schools of his county and to bring them foremost among the systems of the state, is attracting attention which is state wide in its scope. He takes rank among the greatest of the state's educators by reason of his remarkable success in accomplishing his purpose without friction or without undue agitation among the body politic. The schools of Sac county are gradually being placed upon a high plane of efficiency, through the quiet, diplomatic, forceful methods employed by this young educator in the exercise of his prerogatives.

John R. Slacks was born on a farm in Keokuk county, Iowa, January 10, 1873. His parents were John and Catharine (Ross) Slacks, natives of Scotland. Catharine Ross was the daughter of William and Margaret Ross. John Slacks (the father) emigrated from Scotland to America when a young man and first settled in the city of Pittsburgh. After a few years' residence there, he moved westward and settled on a farm in Keokuk county. Here he met and wedded Catharine Ross, whose parents emigrated from Scotland to Keokuk county in 1859. John lived and prospered on his fine farm in Keokuk county until his death in 1878, at the age of fifty-six years. His death left the widow to care for a family of five children, as follows: William, now of Kirksville, Missouri; Anna (Ahlstrom), of Meadowmont, Idaho; Addie (Allman), of Spokane, Washington; John R., and Alice (Abrams), residing on the old family homestead at Hedrick, Iowa. William was sixteen years old at the time of his father's death and on him, as the eldest, naturally devolved the burden of assisting the mother in rearing the family in comfort. The widow later was married to E. J. Jackson, who survives her. She died in 1901 in the old home at Hedrick.

John R. Slacks received his primary education in the rural schools and in a private normal school conducted at Hedrick. He began teaching when very young and continued to advance himself along the line of his chosen profession. While attending the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls, he continued in his profession. He entered the Teachers' College in 1894, and completed his course in 1901, at which time there was conferred upon him the degree of Bachelor of Didactics. His teaching career began in 1893 in the rural schools, in which he taught for four years. He then had charge of a room in the Keswick, Iowa, schools from 1896 to 1899, and in the fall of 1901 again entered the State Teachers' College for the purpose of completing his course. After graduation, Mr. Slacks was placed in charge of the Lake View, Iowa, schools for a period of eight years. He was

elected county superintendent of schools in November of 1908, and again elected in 1910 and 1912. Under his charge are a total of one hundred and twenty-five rural schools and nine graded schools. Like many successful men, Mr. Slacks entered upon the duties of his important position with well defined ideas of what was necessary to bring the schools of Sac county up to a high standard of efficiency. The esteem in which he is universally held throughout the county by all classes is the best testimonial to his tactfulness and calm and dignified way of introducing innovations which have had a marked tendency to bring about a closer co-operation between the school and patrons, and to raise the Sac county schools upon a higher plane than was ever before known. He has introduced and has **carried to a successful culmination** the co-operative method of "The School and the Home," and established a system of credits which are given the child for faithful work performed in the home as well as in the school room. Professor Slacks has been the recipient of extended and favorable mention throughout and beyond the borders of the state as the originator and progenitor of this system of furthering the cause of education and usefulness of the pupils. He also established the "play festivals" which are held each season at the close of the school year and in which parents and pupils take an active part with pleasure and recreation accruing to both. Through a definite and well-defined plan he has caused the schools of the county to be grouped in four districts, with four townships in each district. The pupils and patrons of these districts are called together for an all-day play festival and picnic dinner on successive days. On festival days the graduates from the eighth grades are granted their diplomas. These festivals are naturally very popular with the people, and it is known that patrons to the number of six hundred have been gathered for the purpose of taking part in the festivities. During Professor Slacks' incumbency of the superintendency many modern sanitary heaters and ventilating systems have been established in the rural schools, an innovation which has eliminated headaches and much sickness and greatly improved the mental efficiency of the pupils. Earthen water jars, with individual drinking cups, are now the rule. In addition to accomplishing such wonderful results in making decided improvements in the school system of the county he has established a course of study which has been widely copied and became the author of "Outlines of Civil Government," which is used in the seventh and eighth grades. The historian of this work is greatly indebted to Mr. Slacks for the greater part of the chapter on education which bears his signature as author.

Politically, Professor Slacks is allied with the Republican party; his religious affiliations are with the Baptist church, of which institution he holds the position of superintendent of the Sunday school. He was also the leader of the Boys' Band in Sac City, a talented musical organization formed during the summer of 1913.

Mr. Slacks was married in 1894 to Leona E. Ferry, of Sigourney, Iowa, the daughter of C. A. Ferry. Two children have blessed this union: John Wendell, aged seventeen years, and who graduated from the Sac City high school in 1913, and Melvin James Slacks, aged six years.

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### SEYMOUR D. SELBY.

The prestige and reputation of any city is dependent upon the personnel of its citizenship. If the residents are enterprising and progressive, the community naturally becomes known far and wide as a coming city and one which is universally recognized as a good place in which to live. All reform and progressive movements usually have their inception in a crying need for changes for the better. Their success depends upon the personality and integrity of those who get behind the movement and push it forward to completion; a combination of progression and progressive citizens makes improvement certain and sure. The beautiful and enterprising city of Odebolt is fortunate in having for its governing officials a coterie of the most progressive and enterprising men of the municipality; their inception into office is the result of a growth and crystalization of sentiment demanding a change from the former order of things. The change has resulted for the better for all concerned. Odebolt is up and coming; improvements have been placed under way; conveniences are now enjoyed by the citizens which were conspicuous for their absence previous to the new regime and all parties concerned are now universally interested in the making of a greater and better city. The city is very fortunate in having for its chief executive a man noted for his sterling honesty, integrity, and earnestness of purpose in the person of Seymour D. Selby, concerning whom this brief review is written.

S. D. Selby is a native of Grant county, Wisconsin, born on October 3, 1862, and is the son of John N. and Mary (DeWitt) Selby, who were both born and reared in the old Buckeye state. In the year 1867 they departed from the old Ohio homestead and traveled to Adams county, Iowa. After a residence there of one and one-half years they journeyed to Page county,

where they made their final home. John N. Selby died at New Market, Page county, in the year 1885. He was twice married and was the father of four children by his first marriage and five offspring by a second marriage. Five of these children are yet living, namely: Margaret, of Salem, Oregon; Mrs. Felicia Holt, also a resident of Salem, Oregon; Mrs. Ophelia Hully, of Atlantic, Iowa; Mrs. Olive Nance, on a farm in Minnesota, and Seymour D.

S. D. Selby was educated in the common schools and the Hawleyville, Page county, high school. He studied pharmacy in the town of Carbon, Adams county, and upon the completion of his course and being admitted to the practice of his profession he engaged in the drug business at Vallisca, Iowa, for a period of six years. He then came to Odebolt in 1896 and here conducted a drug store for ten years. He retired from the business in 1906 and has since been devoting his time to the buying and selling of real estate and farm lands. He and J. R. Mattes conduct the Western Land Company for the purpose of handling Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota farm lands. Their business is very extensive and they handle many farms in the course of the year.

Mr. Selby was married in October of 1885 to Sadie Hanna, of Adams county, Iowa. He is the father of the following children: Margery Lenore, a graduate of Grinnell College and a teacher in the Sanborn, Iowa, schools; John, a graduate of the University of Omaha, class of 1914; Paul, who will graduate at the University of Omaha in the 1915 class.

Mr. Selby is the leader of the Progressive party in Sac county, being the aggressive chairman of the county central committee, and figuring prominently in Progressive circles throughout the state. Mr. Selby served as postmaster at Carbon, Iowa, under Presidents Arthur and Harrison and resigned his position on removing to Villisca. He is stockholder and one of the organizers of the Farmers Savings Bank of Odebolt and is the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of good land in the eastern section of South Dakota.

Mr. Selby is a member of the Presbyterian church and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Eastern Star, Knights of Pythias, Brotherhood of American Yeoman and the Modern Woodmen. He was elected mayor of Odebolt in March of 1911 and has proven to be one of the best executives and the most enterprising the city has had in many years. During his term of office a sewerage system has been installed at a cost of over twenty-two thousand dollars and the work of installation has been faithfully and honestly performed. Other plans for the introduction of modern improvements and providing for the further beautifying the city are under way.

## AUGUST GROMAN, M. D.

No other profession has accomplished, during the last half century, the progress and development that have been made by the medical. The man of original thought and action, whose textbook forms but the basis of future work, has ever moved forward, taking advantage of and utilizing new discoveries in the science and looking always for better methods, surer means to the desired end. Such a man is he whose name forms the caption to this sketch. In considering the character and career of this eminent member of the medical fraternity, the impartial observer will not only be disposed to rank him among the leading members of his profession in his locality, but also as one of those men of broad culture and mental ken who have honored mankind in general. Through a long and busy life, replete with honor and success, he has been actuated by the highest motives, and to the practice of his profession he has brought rare skill and resource, his quick perception and almost intuitive judgment enabling him to make a correct diagnosis, always necessary that proper treatment may be used. He has always been a close observer and student of medical science, keeping in close touch with the latest advances along that line, and he has been uniformly successful in the practice. Because of his high attainments and his exalted personal character, he is eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

Dr. August Groman, oldest practicing physician of Odebolt, Iowa, was born November 9, 1856, in Lake county, Indiana. His parents, Charles and Caroline (Kluckhohn) Groman, were both natives of Germany, who came to this country early in the history of Indiana, and lived and died in Lake county, that state. To them were born nine children: Henry, deceased; Charles, deceased; Frederick, of Muncie, Indiana; Dr. August Groman, of whom this chronicle speaks; Minnie, who lives in Chicago; Mrs. Caroline Noehren, of London, Ontario, Canada; Mrs. Sophia Wrede, of Chicago; Mrs. Louise Klein, who is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Anna Wilson, of Hammond, Indiana. Charles Groman was twice married, and Dr. August Groman was a son by his first marriage, his mother dying when he was thirteen years of age.

Dr. August Groman was educated in the district schools of Lake county, Indiana, and finished his common school education in Knight's private school at Crown Point, Indiana. Early in life he decided to enter the medical profession and, with this end in view, he matriculated in the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College in 1875. Immediately upon his graduation

from that institution in 1878, he came to Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, and has practiced continuously in this community for the past thirty-six years. He has lived to see this county grow from a straggling frontier settlement to its prosperous condition, and has had a large share in the material life of the community itself. Hundreds of the citizens of this county have Doctor Groman to bless for their very existence, and the good which he has accomplished in his many years of service in this county can not be calculated by human agency.

Doctor Groman was married June 14, 1881, to Gesine E. Beckman, and to this union have been born six children, four of whom are now living: Dr. Herman C., of Hammond, Indiana; Alice, Dorothy and Elinor. Doctor Groman is a member of the various medical associations which seek to keep their members in touch with the latest scientific developments along medical lines. Among these are the Sac County, the Iowa State and the American Medical Associations. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Yeomen. Doctor Groman has filled a large place in the ranks of the public-spirited physicians of his county, in that he has done his part well, for his record has been such as has gained for him the commendation and approval of a large circle of friends throughout the county. His career has been a long and useful one in every respect and the citizens of this county owe him a debt which they can never repay.

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#### CURTIS ORVILLE LEE.

Among men of affairs in almost any progressive community are found those who have apparently been singled out for preferment of a higher order than their fellows. Such individuals are known to possess ability of a marked quality, the power of discernment, the faculty of making and retaining friendships, and the financial acumen which is absolutely necessary to gain material recognition as captains of finance. We usually judge a personage by the nature of his past accomplishments, his mode of living, and his usefulness to his fellow men. However, we dare not lose sight of the fact that, among men in general, we judge the citizen, to a certain extent, by his power to profit along the lines to which he seems naturally adapted. Life moves in such a mysterious manner and in ways that are past our comprehension that there is no possible means of predicting the outcome of the career of those who might





CURTIS ORVILLE LEE





be gifted with every advantage possible at the starting of their life tasks. Select two men from the average groups into which humans are usually divided, give each an equal start in the race, provide both with suitable sinews, take it for granted that each will be equipped mentally and physically and endowed along similar lines. Watch the outcome. It is probable that one or the other will fall by the wayside or fail to properly develop his gifts and make only a mediocre success of his life; the other will enlarge his horizon and ever seek for new tasks to overcome and succeed even beyond the expectations of his friends and associates. These things we can not properly explain. We can only portray life as we see it. It is the province of the historian to record the actual accomplishments of the men who come under his observation. It is a pleasure, however, to present this encomium of the life and deeds of him whose name forms the caption of this biography. Curtis Orville Lee is a product of the pioneer life of Sac county and one of those who has taken high rank among the citizens of his native city along several useful lines of endeavor.

Curtis Orville Lee was born November 18, 1860, in Sac City, the son of Melitus S. and Caroline (Travis) Lee. M. S. Lee was born in Schoharie county, New York, May 27, 1821, the son of William Lee, a native of the state of New York. While yet in his young manhood he made a trip to the west as far as Council Bluffs, Iowa. On his return he filed on and proved upon a claim in Madison county, Iowa. He later sold his claim to a settler and returned to Laporte, Indiana. Previous to this he had found employment with Curtis Travis, who afterward became his father-in-law. In 1853, he married Caroline, third daughter of his employer. He then traveled westward, stopping for a few months in the vicinity of Baraboo, Wisconsin, and then proceeding to Fayette county, Iowa. He remained in this county for but one season, however, and in 1854 removed from the town of Winterset to Sac county. He first resided in Sac City, in a small log cabin. The winter of 1854-1855 was a terrible one, noted for the great depth of the snows and for the extreme cold. M. S. Lee found it necessary to remove his live stock to an improvised barn dug in a snowbank, near Judge Criss' place for the remainder of the winter. In the spring of 1861 he removed his family to his farm in Douglas township where he erected a fine residence which is occupied to this day by his daughter. He resided on the farm until 1894, when he retired to Sac City, dying March 12, 1898. The senior Lee was a large land owner, becoming possessed of an estate of one thousand three hundred and twenty acres of excellent farm lands. During his time he filled several minor

township offices and served as county supervisor of Sac county. He was an able and capable citizen whose demise was deeply mourned by a host of friends. His wife, Caroline Travis, was born September 2, 1836, in Laporte county, Indiana, and died September 4, 1900. They were blessed with the following children: Cassina M., who died of diphtheria at the age of seven years; Curtis Orville, the two first named being twins; Mrs. Lenora Keir, of Douglas township; William Lamont Lee, of Mason City, Iowa, and Mrs. W. E. Wayt, of Chandler, North Dakota.

Curtis Orville Lee was educated in the common schools and Cornell College of Mt. Vernon, Iowa. After completing his education he took charge of one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land on coming of age, which his father gave him outright. This farm was located in Douglas township. He improved it to the best of his ability and added to the acreage until the land now totals three hundred and thirty-six acres. On August 2, 1892, he purchased the grain elevators at Sac City and operated them for nine years, removing his family to the city in February, 1893. He has a fine residence in the choice residential section of the city. Mr. Lee has been eminently successful as an auctioneer and real estate operator. Since 1895 he has made a business of crying auction sales and has a reputation as a very successful auctioneer among the farmers of the neighborhood. His dealings in farm lands run into the thousands of acres. He is the owner of one thousand and seventy acres of land in Sac county over which he exercises personal supervision, by conducting his farming operations on the hired help and the co-operative basis. He has a large stock farm northwest of Sac City on which he feeds hundreds of cattle and hogs. Mr. Lee's shipments of cattle will average fifteen carloads annually, in addition to ten carloads of hogs. During the season of 1912 he shipped over thirty carloads of swine to the Chicago markets.

Mr. Lee is not only a practical, but a scientific farmer, who takes a keen interest in the betterment of conditions for the agriculturists, and is a strong advocate of better and more intensive farming methods. We are indebted to his literary talent for the excellent chapter on the Evolution of Agriculture which is found in this volume. He is allied with the Republican party and has served as mayor of the municipality, and has been a member of the school board. He is a member of the Baptist church, and is connected fraternally with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, blue lodge, chapter and commandery of Sac City; the Yeomanry and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was united in marriage with Celia Rogers, March 16, 1884. Mrs

Lee is the daughter of Mrs. E. A. Knapp, of Sac City. They have two sons: LaVerne Lee, born February 26, 1887, and who is traveling salesman for and treasurer of the Conger-Ball Seed Company of Sac City; Ward Forrester, aged thirteen years.

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### ABNER L. CHANDLER.

No intelligent student of the rise and progress of the great state of Iowa will deny that the pioneer element, with their descendants, constitutes the back-bone and the mainstay of civilization. They boldly entered the wilderness, encountered its hardships, dangers and privations and carved out new homes and new destinies. Abner L. Chandler is one of those substantial citizens of Sac county whose long residence and interesting family history contains much of value to his descendants.

Abner L. Chandler is a native of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, born April 2, 1845, and he is a son of Ezra and Florinda (Lewis) Chandler, both also natives of the Keystone state. In 1850 Ezra Chandler and family located in Lake county, Illinois, where they became pioneer farmers of that section, and in 1856, still following the star of empire westward, removed to Fort Scott, Kansas, where they purchased a farm. They were not destined to remain long in their new home in a new country, as death soon called both Ezra Chandler and his good wife, she dying there in 1857 and he in 1858. Their children were: Frederick, who was a soldier in the Civil War, now deceased; George, deceased; Eliza, deceased; Levi, deceased; Ann, deceased; Viola, deceased; Abner L., the immediate subject of this sketch; Luther, who is a veteran of the Union army, lives in the state of Washington; Mrs. Hattie Woodruff and Mrs. Amelia Carr live in the state of Washington, and Charles also lives in that state, being located at Cannas.

After the death of the parents, the family was dispersed and Abner L. returned to the state of Illinois, where he worked on a farm until the breaking out of our great civil conflict, when he enlisted at Waukegan in Company D, Ninety-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and patriotically served his country for three years. He participated in several very important engagements and many minor skirmishes, among them being the battles of Resaca, Buzzard Roost, Pine Mountain, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta and Dalton. At the siege of Atlanta he was severely wounded in the abdomen and was sick for eighty days, returning to his regiment a few days before the battle of Franklin. He returned to active

service before his wound was properly healed and served with bravery and distinction in the two-days battle of Nashville.

After the war, Mr. Chandler again settled in Lake county, Illinois, working on a farm, and later farming for himself. In 1872 he came to Sac county, Iowa, and located in Wheeler township, and he has the distinction now of being the oldest living settler in Wheeler township. He came here in a primitive day, and there were no houses or dugouts within five miles of him. He moved onto the big Wheeler farm in section 10 and for seven years worked there for a Mr. Ellis, who was renting land. He then, in 1879, bought one hundred and twenty acres in section 12, paying four dollars and five dollars per acre for the land. He made his permanent home on this land, adding to his acreage as he prospered, first buying one hundred and twenty acres of the west one-half and later buying eighty acres of the south one-half, making his total acreage three hundred and twenty acres. In 1906 he sold one hundred and sixty acres of this land and later disposed of the remainder. In December, 1907, he removed to Odebolt, and here he erected a beautiful bungalow residence on Maple street.

Abner L. Chandler was married, December 1, 1867, to Henrietta Dunn, who was born October 21, 1847, in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of Joseph and Olive (Witter) Dunn, descendants of an old Connecticut family who lived and died in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Chandler came to Lake county, Illinois, when twenty years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Chandler have been born a fine family of ten children, named as follows: Sydney Levi, born December 5, 1868, is a graduate of Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, and is now dean of this college, but is at present taking a post-graduate course in New York City. He was married November 5, 1890, to Mary A. Smith, of Clinton township, and has three children, Harry Abner, Asa Lewis and Olive Lyle. Frank A., born July 2, 1870, died in infancy. Olive F., born August 18, 1871, is the wife of Charles Smith, and they live in Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa, and have five children, Anna, Sadie, Hobart, Lawrence and Esther. Anna L., born February 9, 1875, died in 1889. Etta, born September 18, 1878, died in infancy. Philip L., born January 12, 1880, is a farmer in Nebraska, married Etta Epperson and they have two children, Keith and Kenneth. Arthur G., born September 23, 1881, resides on a farm at Lyons, Nebraska, and married Maggie McLean. Cordelia, born November 20, 1883, lives in Richland township in this county, and is the wife of Sebastian Buehler. They have two children, May and Fern. Harry A., born February 10, 1886, died February 10, 1888. Forest H., born March 28, 1887, is a graduate of

Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, and is now superintendent of West Bend, Iowa, schools; he married Francis Horn, of Sioux City, Iowa, also a graduate of Morningside College and principal of the West Bend high school. They have one great-grandchild, Earl Wayne Gilbert.

Politically, Abner L. Chandler is a Progressive. In an early day he served Wheeler township in the capacity of trustee. At other times he was also township clerk and supervisor. A warm-hearted, affable gentleman, he is one of those esteemed old pioneers who have done so much for the opening up and development of this favored section of western Iowa, and he is deservedly popular in the community where he has lived so long and labored to such good purpose.

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### GEORGE B. PERKINS.

Banking is well considered the highest of our commercial occupations. No institutions have contributed more to the development and building of the West than the banking concerns. The banks of Sac City without exceptions are bulwarks of strength and stability and have been the mainstay and support of the city and the rich farming community around about in important ways. The First National Bank, of which Mr. Perkins is the official head, takes first rank among the banking concerns of the county. To be the titular head of such an important financial concern calls for ability of a high order and attainments such as will command the respect of similar institutions and the patrons of the bank. The president of the First National Bank of Sac City, while yet a young man in years, carries easily and in a dignified manner the responsibilities engendered by the importance of his duties. His ability is unquestioned; while reserved to a certain degree, Mr. Perkins, by virtue of his education and attainments, and through possessing a pronounced aptitude for the banking business, has achieved a primary success in his chosen field.

George B. Perkins, president of the First National Bank of Sac City, is a native of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he was born August 11, 1874, the son of George and Emeline M. (Larrabee) Perkins. His father, George Perkins, was born in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, May 8, 1820, and died May 3, 1906. George, Sr., was the son of Francis Perkins, whose wife was Rebecca Sherman, both being natives of Pennsylvania. The father of Francis

Perkins was Jacob Perkins. Francis and his wife Amy were likewise natives of the same state.

It is thus seen that the family resided in Pennsylvania from a very early day and the ancestors were numbered among the pioneers and builders of the great commonwealth whose people have been such important factors in the settlement and development of the Middle West and the Western states.

Emeline Larrabee, mother of George P. Perkins, was born February 9, 1837, in the state of Connecticut, and was the daughter of Adam and Hannah Gallup (Lester) Larrabee, descendants of old New England families. The father of Adam Larrabee was Frederick, who took for his helpmeet Abigail Allen, of Connecticut. Frederick Larrabee was the son of Timothy and Abigail (Wood) Larrabee.. The beginning of the Larrabee and Wood families has been traced to the year 1730. The names, Larrabee, Lester, Allen and Wood figure prominently in the genealogical records of the state of Connecticut and the descendants are numerous throughout the length and breadth of the United States.

George Perkins, Sr., like many New Englanders of the better class, was well educated and early fitted himself for the practice of the legal profession. Believing rightly that the West offered a more attractive field for the exercise of his talents in this respect, he removed, when yet a young man, to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and soon became one of the prominent and commanding figures of this growing community. The office of probate or county judge was conferred upon him by his fellow citizens and he served the people in this important capacity for a period of twelve years in succession. He also filled the office of district attorney in a capable and able manner. He was twice married. By his first marriage there were two children: offered a position as French instructor in her alma mater of Neff College and Abbie, deceased, and Nellie (Gerpheide), who resides in Michigan. By his second marriage, with Emeline Larrabee, there were born and reared four children: Lester, deceased; George B., of whom we are writing; Frances G., who resides with her mother in the old homestead at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; Jehdeiah B., of Fond du Lac.

George B. Perkins, with whom this narrative is directly concerned, received his early education in the public schools of his native city. He, too, learning of the opportunities which presented themselves to young men of ability and determination in the newer and richer country to the westward, became imbued with the idea of moving onward across the great state of Iowa, as many of the people of his neighborhood had done before him. Ac-



cordingly, he set out for Sac City to try his fortunes in the growing and beautiful town on the banks of the Coon river. He sought and immediately obtained employment, on his arrival in July, 1896, in the Sac County State Bank. He remained with this concern in the capacity of bookkeeper, until February, 1901, when he resigned his position to take up his duties as clerk of the district court, to which important office he had been elected in the fall of 1900. He was again re-elected to fill the office in 1902 and served in all for a period of four years. He performed his duties in this public capacity in a manner to justify the confidence imposed in him by his fellow citizens. At the conclusion of his four-year term as a public official he became connected with the First National Bank as president. Aside from his banking duties he has dealt extensively in Sac county and Iowa lands, and still handles considerable farm lands. Mr. Perkins keeps closely in touch with the farming interests of his adopted county and has a wide and favorable acquaintance among the prosperous agricultural population of the neighboring territory. It is his diversion to serve as clerk of various farm sales which are continually taking place in the territory contiguous to Sac City. He is active in civic affairs in a modest and unassuming way and is ever ready to lend a helping hand in matters which have an important bearing on the public welfare and the upbuilding of his home city.

Mr. Perkins is a Republican in politics and was mayor of Sac City in 1906. He was an alternate delegate to the Republican national convention in 1908 at Chicago. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and is a leading Mason. He holds a membership in the Sac City blue lodge of Masons and the Rose Croix Chapter, and Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar, of Sac City, of which he is the present commander.

Mr. Perkins was united in marriage with Lola May Early in June, 1899. His wife is the daughter of Judge D. Carr Early, one of the important figures in the pioneer and subsequent decades of the annals of Sac county. A considerable chapter is devoted elsewhere to the life and accomplishments of Judge Early in the pages of this volume. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Perkins: George Early, who was born March 8, 1900; Miriam Larrabee, who was born March 8, 1902; Eloise Loraine, born March 19, 1914. Mrs. Perkins is one of Sac City's most talented and estimable women and is active in church, social and club life. She is native born to Sac county and received her primary education in the Sac City high school, after which she studied for three years in Drake University, pursuing a musical and commercial course, and then, continuing her studies in Philadelphia, she graduated from the National School of Elocu-

tion. She graduated from Neff College of Philadelphia and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She made a tour of Europe with a company of young ladies and studied for two years in the Mlle. Tribou Finishing School for Young Ladies in Paris and became a proficient linguist in the French language. Returning home from her studies abroad, she was prevailed upon to give private lessons in French to Sac City students and was offered a position as French instructor in her alma mater of Neff College and was offered the position of teacher of foreign languages, especially French, in Drake University. Home life appeals to her in its truest sense and she is active in the social doings of the community in which she has spent her life from childhood.

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### SAMUEL M. AND FRANK E. STOUFFER.

The press is the most powerful instrument in the shaping and molding of public opinion which we have today. It enlightens the people and fights their battles individually and collectively. It makes and unmakes men at will. Likewise it creates or tears down statutes intended for the good or ill being of the people at large. There is no one power its equal in the length and breadth of the land in this respect. In this land of free speech and the free press, it is a potent factor in the building up of communities. It is conceded that the newspapers of the inland cities enjoy a greater and wider prestige in their locality of circulation and accomplish more direct and real and lasting good than even the great metropolitan press of today. The local editor chronicles our successes; he smoothes over our failures; he tells us what our neighbors and friends are doing; he advises us out of the stores of wisdom gained through years of experience. He espouses the cause of reform where needed; he advocates publicly in a clarion voice the need of improvements and assists us in pushing forward. The newspaper of today has advanced with the times and ever keeps abreast and even ahead of the procession.

Sac county boasts one of the best of weekly newspapers published in Iowa or the West. Its standing reflects credit upon its editors and publishers whose names head this biography. S. M. and F. E. Stouffer hold high rank among the journalists and publishers of Iowa by virtue of the success they have made in the publication of *The Sac Sun* since the year 1893, when they first came to Sac City and purchased the newspaper.

They are the sons of Andrew and Lucinda (Rhinehart) Stouffer, natives of Washington county, Maryland, who were married in Ogle county, Illinois.





FRANK E. STOUFFER



SAMUEL M. STOFFER



At the age of fifteen, Andrew removed from Maryland to Ogle county in 1845, with his parents, George and Elizabeth (Welty) Stouffer. His wife Lucinda was the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Bovey) Rhinehart, who migrated from Maryland to Ogle county in about 1845. Andrew Stouffer moved with his family to Marshall county, Iowa, in March of 1860, after disposing of his farming interests in Ogle county. Here he engaged in farming, in which he was successful to a marked degree. He insisted on the thorough education of his children, because he realized the value of their being thoroughly equipped and mentally developed for the battle of life. He was very active in church work and a stanch Methodist, having been connected in his earlier years with the United Brethren denomination. He died at State Center, Marshall county, Iowa, in March, 1910, at the age of eighty years. His wife Lucinda was born in 1841 and died in 1897. They were the parents of the following children: Samuel M. and Frank E.; Elmina L., wife of William Ellis, of State Center, Iowa; James Elmer, deceased; Raymond, State Center, Iowa; Cora Estella, of State Center; Albert Russell, who died in youth; Wesley Rhinehart, a teacher in the Capital City Commercial College, Des Moines. John Andrew, who is employed in the furniture business in Marshalltown, Iowa; Edith Elsie, wife of Herbert G. Monroe, of State Center, Iowa.

Samuel M., the efficient and capable editor of *The Sac Sun*, was born on the Ogle county farm November 1, 1865, and was educated primarily in the district schools. He and his brother Frank attended the same district school out on the Iowa prairie at the same time. This school was then known as the Washington Center school and is still familiarly and affectionately known by that name in Marshall county. Samuel M. entered Leander Clark College at Toledo, Iowa, and graduated therefrom in the class of 1890. For a period of two years he taught school, teaching only one year after his graduation in the classical course of Leander Clark College. In 1891 he became associate editor and editorial writer of the *Toledo (Iowa) Chronicle*, in which position he remained until 1893, when he and his brother Frank took charge of *The Sac Sun*. Samuel M. Stouffer is recognized as one of the capable young men of Sac county. He is usually found in the forefront of matters which have their origin in the desire for the advancement and betterment of the city, county or state. His editorial ability is recognized as above the average and his friends are legion.

His political affiliations and sympathies are with the Republican party, of which body he is a stanch supporter, and he is a firm believer in the principles as enunciated in the party platforms. While he has pronounced progressive



ideas, he believes with all his heart and mind that the welfare of the rank and file of the party can best be cared for by allegiance to the party of Abraham Lincoln and his followers. His writings in the editorial columns of *The Sac Sun* are straightforward in their scope without equivocation or denunciation of political opponents. He has never been possessed with a desire for public office and firmly believes that the province of the editor lies within the sanctum of his office and is best exercised in behalf of his fellowmen by the use of his pen in presenting his views in a calm, impartial manner. Mr. Stouffer likewise believes that the best way to achieve success in his chosen profession is to give the people within the scope of influence of his journal such a complete newspaper as they demand, feeling sure that the business end of the journal will profit accordingly. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been the efficient superintendent of the Sunday school for the past sixteen years. He was married September 8, 1898, to Irene O. Holmes, of Charter Oak, Iowa. He is the father of two children: Samuel Andrew, born June 6, 1900, and William Holmes, born April 27, 1909.

He has been the corresponding secretary and the president of the Northwest Iowa Laymen's Association of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has served as secretary of the county central committee of the Republican party. An evidence of Mr. Stouffer's decided literary ability is found in the press chapter of this publication, of which he is the author and for which the publishers are indebted.

Frank E. Stouffer, business manager of *The Sac Sun*, was born February 14, 1867, on the farm in Ogle county, Illinois. He likewise attended the Washington Center district school, and entered Leander Clark College at Toledo, Iowa, with his brother, graduating in the same class in 1890. For awhile their paths diverged somewhat, Frank taking up the profession of teaching, beginning in the country schools and rising to the position of principal. He was called to Kansas in 1890, and took charge of the Attica school for one year and later became principal of the Dillon, Montana, schools, during the years of 1892 and 1893. He was connected in the meantime with a government surveying corps in various parts of Montana until his departure for Sac City in 1893 to join his brother in the purchase of *The Sac Sun*. He is active in various business enterprises in Sac City, being a director and stockholder of the Sac City Electric Company, of which prosperous concern he is the president. He is allied politically with the Republican party, and is secretary of the county central committee. He is fraternally associated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, blue lodge, chapter and commandery of Sac City, and the Mystic Shriners. Mrs. Stouffer is a member of the East-

ern Star lodge. He was married September 21, 1904, at Dillon, Montana, to May Baxter, of that city, the daughter of Anson Baxter, formerly of Sac City, but now a resident of Buhl, Idaho. Anson Baxter was an early pioneer in Sac county.

When S. M. and F. E. Stouffer took charge of *The Sac Sun*, the newspaper was a small six-column sheet, supplied weekly with an auxiliary service or "patent insides," with hardly one thousand subscribers on the list. It is now published as an eight- or twelve-page publication, with seven columns of reading matter, all home print, with over three thousand subscribers and enjoys an excellent advertising patronage. Further encomium is unnecessary—the work of the publishers and their standing in the community is evidence of their well-deserved success.

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#### NICHOLAS ORLANDO GISHWILLER.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and at the same time have honored the locality to which they belong would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of him whose name forms the caption of this biographical record. The qualities which have made him one of the most capable and successful men of Sac county have also brought him the esteem of his fellow men, for it is evident that his career has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods. As a contractor and builder he has achieved a good measure of success; as a business man he has so managed his personal affairs as to rank among the substantial citizens of Sac City; as mayor of the city he has so administered governmental affairs as to earn the hearty commendation of his fellow citizens regardless of politics.

Nicholas O. Gishwiller was born September 9, 1854, on his father's farm in Williams county, sixteen miles from the city of Bryan, Ohio. His parents were Louis and Margaret (Sheets) Gishwiller, natives of Switzerland and Polk counties, Ohio, respectively. His mother was born near the town of Ashland, Ohio. Louis Gishwiller was an infant six months of age when his parents emigrated from Switzerland to the United States. They settled on a farm near the city of Wooster, in Wayne county, Ohio, where Louis was reared to young manhood. When the father of Nathaniel O. Gishwiller became of age he moved to Williams county, Ohio, and purchased a

tract of land which he cleared of heavy timber growth and improved. He disposed of his western Ohio farm in 1869 and moved westward to Stephenson county, Illinois, where he purchased a large farm. The first land investment which he made totalled two hundred and ten acres, which was subsequently added to in different tracts until his holdings were among the most extensive in the county. In his old age Louis retired to a residence in the town of Lena, where he died in October, 1911, leaving a large family of ten children, namely: John Alford, of Carancahua, Texas; Louis Franklin, of Waddams, Illinois; David William, of Lena, Illinois; Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Stahl, of Freeport, Illinois; Nathaniel Orlando; Mrs. Sophia Margaret Albee, of Lena, Illinois; Henry L., also of Lena; Hulbert Marion, of Lena; Charles Wesley, of Wilcox, Nebraska; Mrs. Ada Catharine Coomber, residing in Freeport, Illinois. Three children died in infancy.

He with whom this narrative is intimately concerned was educated in the district schools of the neighborhood in which he was reared and remained on the parental farm until the year 1882. He then came to Sac county and purchased one hundred and forty acres of good land in Cedar township which he improved and made into a valuable property. He resided on the farm until 1884 when he sold it and bought another tract of eighty acres in Wall Lake township, on which he and his family resided until 1888. The family then moved to Sac City with the intention of making a permanent residence here. Mr. Gishwiller at once engaged in carpentering and contracting and has met with signal success in all of his undertakings in his chosen line. It is very rarely that a man who has followed the ancient occupation of tilling the soil can abandon it as a means of gaining a livelihood when approaching middle age, but Mr. Gishwiller has exemplified the fallacy of the oft-repeated argument that "Once a farmer, always a farmer." His work as a contractor and builder has been thoroughly and honestly done and his services have been in great demand for several years. His two oldest sons assist him in his operations and he employs additional help on occasion. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent farm land in South Dakota and is the possessor of a residence property in Sac City. Politically, he has always been allied with the Republican party. He has filled various local and school offices with credit to himself and in the interest of his constituents. In the spring of 1913 he was elected mayor of Sac City. He is known as one of the most energetic and capable city executives who has ever held the office. During his administration extensive city improvements have been pushed to completion. Miles of paving have been laid within the city and improvements have been made throughout the mu-

nicipality which have placed Sac City among the most progressive of the cities of Iowa. He is a member of the Baptist church and is fraternally affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Brotherhood of American Yeoman. Mr. Gishwiller is a prominent and active member of the local lodge of Pythians.

N. O. Gishwiller was united in marriage with Mary Hall, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on February 13, 1877. She is the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Hall, natives of England and Canada respectively. Three children have been born to this estimable couple, namely: Margaret Rebecca Corsaut, who was born January 3, 1878, on the farm in Illinois, and resides in Cedar township. She is the mother of four children: Frances, Elmira, DeWitt James, Zada Emma and Loren. Oran Orlando, the second son, was born May 9, 1885, and resides in Sac City. He is the father of two children, Helen Grace and Marguerite. The third child is Ira Irwin, born June 6, 1887.

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#### EDWARD P. HARTMAN.

It is the essence of biography to record the accomplishments of the individual. Not all men are chosen to perform wondrous tasks. The great bulk of the population in our towns and cities is made up of industrious men who are doing their duty in behalf of those dependent on their exertion and at the same time taking the necessary part in the self-government and promoting the well being of the community at large. Each man in his own sphere of endeavor is doing his duty as he sees it or as his environments require. Edward P. Hartman, banker and man of affairs in Lake View, is a successful citizen, residing in a growing and hustling city noted for its enterprise and the high personal character of its citizenship. It is meet and desirable that his biography be written and inserted herein.

E. P. Hartman was born November 16, 1869, in Spencer county, Indiana, the son of John C. and Barbara (Collignon) Hartman. John C., the father, was born in Germany in 1834 and died in Sac county in the year 1905. Barbara Collignon was the daughter of French parents and a native of the province of Alsace Loraine. When John C. Hartman was twelve years old he came to America with his parents, who located in the state of Pennsylvania in 1846. His father was a miller by trade and John C. naturally took up the same vocation and was employed in his younger days in a flouring mill near the city of Harrisburg. He likewise became a skilled millwright and understood the erection of a flouring-mill from the founda-

tion to erecting the structure and installing the machinery. He became a builder of flouring mills. He removed to Indiana for a short time and later migrated to Iowa in the year 1873 and for two years worked in a flouring-mill in Dubuque county. In 1875 he came westward and built a mill at Carroll, which he operated until 1880. He then came to Sac county and built a mill in Boyer Valley township, which he operated until 1883, then removed to Odebolt and erected the Odebolt Flouring Mill. He operated the Odebolt mill for several years and became quite well to do, being recognized as one of the substantial and valued citizens of the county.

The children of John C. and Barbara Hartman numbered thirteen in all, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Mrs. J. R. Mattes, of Odebolt; Mrs. J. F. Covey, of Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. J. P. Laughlin, of Bevington, Iowa; Mrs. Barbara Shea, a resident of Spokane, Washington; J. W. Hartman, of Lake View; E. P. Hartman, with whom the reviewer is directly concerned.

E. P. Hartman was educated in the public and parochial schools of Carroll, Iowa, and also studied in Dixon College. From 1890 to 1891, inclusive, he served as deputy treasurer of Sac county. He then engaged in the mercantile business in Gowrie for a period of seven years, after which he returned to Odebolt where he resided until 1905. In 1905 he became connected with the Lake View State Bank and is now the bank's efficient and accommodating assistant cashier. His attention, like that of many other successful and enterprising men in this section of the West, has been devoted to agricultural interests and his land holdings are considerable. He is the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of rich land, one hundred and twenty acres of which is located in Wall Lake township and two hundred and forty acres in Boyer Valley township.

Mr. Hartman was married in 1892 to Louisa Schaller, a daughter of Hon. Phil Schaller, one of the noted and commanding figures in the history of Sac county, and of whom this volume gives an extended biography. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hartman, as follows: Lucille and Philip, students in Grinnell College; Mary, Schaller, Catharine and Margaret.

Politically, Mr. Hartman is allied with the Republican party. He is a member of the Catholic church. He ranks high as one of the representative and leading citizens of his city and county; is genial, well educated and progressive and enjoys the friendship and esteem of his many acquaintances throughout the county. He is the father of a very interesting family who will undoubtedly be reared to become good and useful men and women.

## ALFRED G. KRUSENSTJERNA.

The Swedish nation has contributed her quota to the cosmopolitan character of the American populace and the American citizens whose nativity was originally in Scandinavia are among the best of our population. No immigrant from foreign shores speaking a language other than the English is more quickly assimilated or is more thoroughly Americanized in a short period of time after arrival on our shores than the sturdy sons of Sweden. As tillers of the soil they are among the most successful; in the marts of trade and commerce they have made their presence felt in large measure; in the learned professions the Swedish-Americans have achieved fame, wealth and distinction, and are found everywhere in the van of human progress. They are alive to their opportunities and readily throw off the Old World mannerisms and customs which are sometimes stubbornly adhered to in this country by the representatives from other foreign nationalities. Everywhere they are considered valued members of society and soon take their rightful places in the life of the communities which are so fortunate as to secure them as permanent citizens. In Alfred G. Krusenstjerna, of Odebolt, we find one of the best and most intelligent types of an American citizen whose birthplace was in Sweden.

Mr. Krusenstjerna was born June 2, 1856, in Sweden and is the son of Marritz Von and Mary Krusenstjerna. His father was a manufacturer and a well-to-do land owner who had large estates in Sweden and Norway. The father is now deceased and the mother resides in the old home in Sweden. Alfred G. received the advantages of an excellent education in the schools of his native land, a proficiency which stood him in good stead when he came to America to seek his fortune in the West. He was twenty-four years of age when he first came to America and in 1880 he located in Odebolt. He entered the employ of Henry Hanson and was thus engaged for a period of ten years. He was then employed for the St. Paul & Kansas Grain Company for two years and in 1893 started in business for himself. His grain business is very extensive and probably the largest in Sac county. He is a large buyer and shipper of grain, including corn, popcorn and oats. It is computed that he buys and ships over one hundred and seventy-five carloads of grain annually. Mr. Krusenstjerna is also a very extensive buyer and shipper of live stock and handles in excess of one hundred and twenty-five carloads of live stock yearly. Being the owner of nine hundred and ninety acres of land in Richland township gives him an outlet for his live stock operations and affords an excellent feeding place for



large herds previous to their shipment to the markets. Several years ago he began investing his surplus earnings in Sac county land and has added to his possessions of this valuable commodity, which is the source of all wealth, until he is now one of the largest land owners in the county.

In politics, Mr. Krusenstjerna is a pronounced Progressive; his religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian brotherhood.

Mr. Krusenstjerna was married in 1889, to Ida Haakison, a native of Sweden. To this union have been born eleven children as follows: George, a farmer on his father's farm; Hazel, Fred, Mabel, Russell, Ruth, Florence, Arthur, Morris, Helen and Richard.

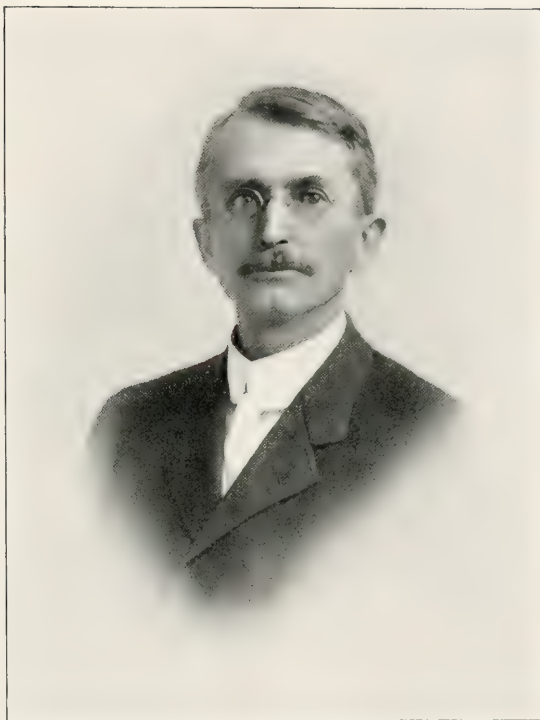
Mr. Krusenstjerna stands high in the estimation of his fellow citizens and is admired for his genuine business ability and many good qualities by those who know him best. His career furnishes a striking example of the possibility of attaining success in this western country by those of foreign birth who come here unhandicapped by not possessing sufficient attainments to enable them to grasp their opportunities and win.

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### ZACHARY FULLER, M. D.

Life holds possibilities for all of us. We come into the world with our pathway before us. It is strewn with obstacles which are oftentimes difficult to overcome but the very nature of which, in the necessary efforts of will and expenditure of energy, enable us to properly develop the mental efficiency and capabilities destined to enable the individual to gain a measure of success. Some individuals rely to a certain extent upon the fickle fortunes of destiny; others are inspired by the lessons handed down by ancestral heredity; some are tossed about upon the waves of commotion without attaining a definite course; many are inspired with a desire to devote their lives for the benefit of their fellow men. Ambition is the notable spur which drives men forward to the attainment of a certain well-defined goal. When ambition is combined with positive genius and power of brain success is certain, and comes to him who patiently exercises the God-lent gifts which are his by right of birth and endowment. Since the time of the first Great Healer the history of the medical fraternity has abounded with tales of the deeds of self-sacrificing individuals who have given their lives for the alleviation of suffering. In these days of commercial exploitation and the pursuit of wealth, it is a gratification to the historian to be permitted to write concerning an eminent professional





ZACHARY FULLER, M. D.



gentleman who has risen from a modest beginning to one of the leaders of a profession noted for its learned, scholarly and self-effacing members. The biographer of this volume is pleased to chronicle briefly and concisely this tribute to Dr. Z. Fuller, one of the leaders of the medical fraternity of Sac City and county.

Doctor Fuller was born May 22, 1853, in the town of Crown Point, Indiana. He is the son of Aaron Fuller, a native of Ohio, who was born in Vinton county, of the old Buckeye state, the son of James Fuller, a direct descendant of an old New England family, and whose forbears crossed the ocean with the first brave group of pilgrims in the "Mayflower." James Fuller was a native of Maine. He began his migration to Ohio when a young man, but was deterred in the city of Boston for a period of two years on account of Indian troubles to the westward. He finally settled in Ohio, but in 1835 moved to the Hoosier state, and located in Lake county. Aaron was twenty years of age at this time the elder Fuller purchased a large tract of land in Lake county. The family resided in Indiana until the spring of 1865. During the Civil War it was necessary for Aaron to remain at home and care for an invalid wife, but four brothers served faithfully during the war in the service of the Union. Aaron was married in Lake county to Melvina Sprague, a native of Canada, and who later resided in Vermont and New Hampshire with her parents and afterwards accompanied her father and mother to their new home at Crown Point. In the spring of 1865 Aaron Fuller located permanently in Buchanan county, Iowa, and engaged in the retail merchandise and hotel business. In 1868 he traded his town property for a fine farm in Delaware county and moved thereon.

He became the owner of two farms, one of which he traded for a stock of goods and a residence property in the town of Sand Spring, and there removed his family. He engaged in merchandising and the buying and shipping of live stock and grains. He had previously had considerable experience in the handling of horses, having been in the employ of the United States government during the Civil War in the capacity of horse buyer. He would buy up horses suitable for the use of the army and ship them to Chicago. In 1873 the notable panic which swept over the country caused his failure in business. After securing all that he possibly could from the wreck of his fortunes he moved to Texas and spent his remaining days in Texas and Louisiana, finally dying in the city of Shreveport in 1911, at the great age of ninety years. During his residence in the Southland he became the owner of an immense cotton plantation in the state of Texas. Aaron Fuller was thrice married.

By his first wife, he was the father of two children, a son and daughter, both of whom are deceased. There were three children by his second marriage, two of whom died in infancy, and he of whom this narrative reads is the only survivor. Four children were born as a result of his third marriage, only two of whom are yet living, namely: Stephen Fuller, a resident of Texas; Francis, who lives at Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Dr. Z. Fuller was reared on a farm and grew to sturdy manhood with a knowledge of the rudiments of agriculture, but while yet young in years he decided to adopt one of the learned professions as his life work. He had the advantages of a good village school as well as fairly good district schools in securing his initiatory education. He entered the University of Iowa and studied medicine and literature, graduating therefrom in the spring of 1876. He first practiced at Masonville, in the western part of Delaware county, for six months and then located in Sac City, in the fall of the same year. He remained here until November of 1879, when, by reason of failing health, he removed to the mountain regions of Colorado. He spent fifteen years in the Mountain state, the first five years of which were devoted to the practice of his profession in the mining camps of the Gunnison river country. He then practiced for ten years in the city of Denver. The panic of 1892 and 1893 hit the city of Denver very hard and the Doctor deemed it expedient to return to the scene of his first successes. He came again to Sac City and here has remained. He enjoys the distinction of being the oldest practicing physician in point of years of service within the confines of the county. To Doctor Fuller we are greatly indebted for the excellent medical chapter which is one of the important divisions of the History of Sac County. He is a member of the Sac County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. In 1878 he received appointment of United States examining surgeon for pensions, being the first appointee in this county. In the year 1879 he was elected coroner of the county, but did not remain to serve out his term. Doctor Fuller has ever striven to advance himself in the profession, as his high standing among the medical fraternity will attest. During his residence in Colorado he was local surgeon of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad Company at Creston Butte, Colorado. He took post-graduate work in the county hospital of Denver and also pursued a post-graduate course in Rush Medical College of Chicago, and in 1909 studied in the Post-Graduate Hospital in New York City. In recognition of his attainments and ability he was recently appointed state lecturer on tuberculosis, its prevention and cure, by the state board of health. His writings and lectures on this subject have since been widely quoted and read. He is local surgeon

of the Chicago & Northwestern railway. Doctor Fuller is a member of the Christian church of Sac City, and is a fraternal brother of Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World. He has been twice married. In the fall of 1874 he took to wife Ellen Estella Cummings, the daughter of his old preceptor, Doctor Cummings, of Sand Spring. She died in the mountains of Colorado in the spring of 1882, in the mining town of Creston Butte, leaving three sons, namely: Elmer Dean Fuller, a practicing attorney of Mexico City, Mexico; Garth Cummings Fuller, a real estate dealer of Tampico, Mexico, and Nathaniel Hayes Fuller, of Mexico City, a practicing attorney allied with his older brother in the profession. In the fall of 1890 Doctor Fuller was united in marriage with Miss Nellie Tuggy at Loveland, Colorado. To them have been born two children: Mary Elizabeth Fuller, a student in the Carnegie Training School for Librarians at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in which school Miss Fuller is specializing on children's library work; Bayard Craig Fuller, who is attending the local high school.

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#### CHARLES S. DARLING.

The field of agriculture has widened considerably during the past twenty years, and nowhere in the land has greater advancement in this important industry been made than in Sac county, nor has the value of farm lands increased with greater rapidity than in this "Garden Spot of the World," as it is called by the pioneer settlers and their descendants who have lived to see the county emerge from a condition of dormancy, and have seen the wide prairie lands transformed into productive farms, the peer of which can not be found elsewhere in the country. In Cedar township, where some of the most substantial farmers of the county reside, modern methods of agriculture have supplanted the old, arduous way of tilling the soil and the farmer's burdens have been lightened by the introduction of modern machinery, and an excellent drainage system has reclaimed thousands of acres of rich, desirable land which was frequently flooded and at one time considered valueless on account of its sodden condition during the greater part of the year. Charles S. Darling, a citizen of the better type and an enterprising farmer of Sac county, enjoys the unique distinction of having resided on his Cedar township farm for forty years and is one of the pioneer residents of the county.

Mr. Darling is the owner of a farm of two hundred and ninety-six acres,

two hundred and seven of which lie in Sac county, and is part of the old Darling homestead, and eighty-nine acres lie in Calhoun county adjoining. This land is now being thoroughly drained at considerable expense for tiling and ditching, the land being located in a drainage district which will provide for a direct flow of the water. The old Darling home, in which Charles S. resides, was remodeled and modernized in 1903. He has been a stock raiser and breeder for many years and has at the present writing about twelve head of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, and also produces from ten to twenty head of English Shire thoroughbred horses annually. At present the farm is supporting a large drove of hogs. In the year 1913, Mr. Darling's land produced seventy bushels of corn to the acre, this being the best known yield in Sac county, and one of the best yields in the entire state of Iowa for the season, which was not propitious for a good corn crop. The Darling farm is known as Eaverdale farm, Lytton, Iowa.

Charles S. Darling was born March 4, 1856, in Summit county, Ohio. He is the son of James Darling, who was born January 8, 1824, in New York state, and died November 17, 1887, in Sac county. He was the son of Adam Darling, a native of Haddington, Scotland, and who emigrated to New York in 1820 after he married Elizabeth Portus, and later reared a family. Adam was a cabinet-maker by trade. His son James married Margaret Drennen, a daughter of Scotch-Irish parents, who were Matthew, a native of Ireland, and Jane Drennen, a native of Pennsylvania. Margaret Drennen was born in Pennsylvania in 1827 and died in Sac county in the year 1877. James Darling migrated to Summit county, Ohio, and was there married.

In the spring of 1874, James Darling and his family left the old Buckeye home and started for Iowa. The trip consumed seven days in all. They settled on the farm in Cedar township for which James had traded his Ohio property at a valuation of five dollars an acre for the land, which totaled four hundred and fifteen acres. William Drennen took the other part of seven hundred and thirty-five acres which was included in the deal. Charles S. now owns two hundred and seven acres of this land and Mrs. Sadie J. Elwood, his sister, owns two hundred and seven, five acres forming the balance. They erected a small house, sixteen by twenty-four feet in dimension, which served as the habitation of the family for the first two years. Their nearest neighbors at this time were the Youngs and Herrollds, who lived over four miles away. The land was swampy and remained so until the drainage district was organized and an outlet was made which permitted the draining off of the "slough" water. It is said of James Darling that he

was a well educated man and broad minded. During the years 1878 to 1882, inclusive, he served the county as superintendent of schools; he held several township offices and was very prominent in county civic affairs. He was the father of three children, namely; Mrs. Sadie J. Elwood, of Sac City, and Charles S. These two are twins. One child died in infancy.

Charles S. Darling, with whom the reviewer is more intimately concerned, was educated at home and studied under his gifted father, there being no schools of any consequence in the neighborhood in which they resided. The children received practically the equivalent of an academic education, the father being well read in the classics, languages and history.

When he attained young manhood he purchased eighty-nine acres of land in Calhoun county which was located across the dividing road from the home farm. He paid four dollars an acre for this land and met his obligation out of his earnings and savings. He resided on his Calhoun county farm for one year and has lived the remainder of his time in Sac county on the old homestead. Mr. Darling has recently removed to the nearby town of Lytton and the family home is now occupied by his son, who is working the farm in partnership with his father.

Politically, Mr. Darling is a Republican. He has held several township offices and has several times refused the proffer of county office, for so great is his love for his home that he did not care for county political preferment. His family and ancestry were of the Scotch Presbyterian faith, of which religious organization his father was a ruling elder. Charles S. and wife are members of the Lytton Presbyterian church, of which he is a ruling elder.

Mr. Darling has been twice married. His first marriage occurred in 1879, to Anna E. Parker, of Calhoun county, a daughter of W. D. Parker. She died on April 10, 1895, leaving four children: James, born in 1880, a farmer with his father; John, born in 1882, formerly superintendent of the farm of eight hundred acres connected with the Northern Hospital at Redfield, South Dakota, but is now operating the farm with his father; Eugene Drennen, born in 1885, a graduate of the College of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry at Ames, Iowa, in the class of 1909, and is now located at Graettinger, Palo Alto county, engaged in the breeding of live stock; Annabelle, born April 5, 1895, a graduate of the Lytton high school in the class of 1913.

The second marriage of Mr. Darling occurred December 12, 1896, with Julia Fitch, a daughter of Henry Howell Fitch, an early settler of Sac county, and who was a former well known teacher of Sac county; there are many people residing in Sac county who have cause to remember Mrs. Dar-



ling favorably and kindly as their teacher. Mr. Fitch was born October 14, 1836, and died July 24, 1907. His place of birth was on a farm near Mount Vision, Otsego county, New York. He was educated in the Delaware Literary Institute, of Franklin, New York. At the age of twenty-one years, he migrated to Grant county, Wisconsin, and taught school for some time. He was married in March of 1859 to Elizabeth Huntington, who still resides in Sac City. He farmed in Grant and Lafayette counties, Wisconsin, until 1878, when he removed to Sac county. He settled on a farm in Cedar township where he resided until 1894 and then took up his residence in Sac City. Mr. Fitch was a lifelong Republican and was elected county supervisor of the county in 1886, serving eight years in all, and it was during his term that the court house was erected. However, he changed his political convictions in 1896 and supported W. J. Bryan for President, remaining a Democrat to the end of his days. He was affiliated with the Presbyterian church. Mr. Fitch was the father of the following children: Linus E.; Mrs. Nellie Calvert, of Lucerne, Missouri; Mrs. Julia Darling; Mary E.; John H.; Eva L.; Harry H., and Theodore.

Great changes have taken place in Sac county and the western Iowa country since Mr. Darling first came to the county. One of the particular improvements worth noticing is the fact during his boyhood days it was necessary for him to walk a distance of thirteen miles for the mail, whereas, now two mail routes pass his home and they have practically two mail deliveries at their door each day. Educational facilities have been vastly improved; whereas, he secured his education sitting by his father's side in the evenings and on cold winter days when outside work was impossible, he has given his children every opportunity to secure a thorough and complete education. His son, Eugene Drennen, has become a skilled agriculturist and has been educated in agriculture from a scientific standpoint. He was superintendent of the Redfield, South Dakota, state farm for three years, and later was superintendent of the Iowa farm at Davenport previous to engaging in farming for himself. In the short space of three years he saved sufficient money to embark in farming for himself. This modern way is quite different from the older and more laborious methods of our forefathers and more remunerative.

No one individual is more worthy of specific mention in these memoirs of Sac county than Charles S. Darling and his family. This record is intended for perusal by his friends and to serve as a lasting memorial for the members of his family.

## REV. M. C. DALY.

There can be no question but that the men who minister to the spiritual wants and needs of our people are men of high character who are solely devoted to the great work which they are doing. Their whole duty is to prepare men to live better lives, freer lives and prepare them to perform their duties better on this earth in order that they may be the better prepared to meet the world to come. These men are self-sacrificing, and the reward which comes to the business man in this world is often denied those of the ministerial profession. Among the men of Sac county who have contributed to the spiritual welfare of the citizens of the county there is no one who has performed more conscientious work in the field of the Master than has the Rev. M. C. Daly, pastor of the St. Joseph church at Wall Lake.

Rev. M. C. Daly, the son of T. J. and Catherine (De Barry) Daly, of Ireland, was born in Queenstown, Ireland, November 1, 1850. From his earliest boyhood he was inclined toward the church and as he grew in years his determination to devote his life to the service of his Master was the controlling passion with him. Receiving the elements of a common school education in his home country, he left Ireland in young manhood and for the next eleven years was in the schools of the continent, preparing himself for the priesthood, spending seven years in Rome, where he received his collegiate training.

In 1875 Father Daly came to America and at once located in Dubuque, Iowa, his first mission being Rickersville. Here he remained for the next seven years, performing all those multitudinous duties which fall to the lot of the Catholic priest. In 1882 he went to Sioux City, Iowa, and served not only the church in that place, but also missions in the surrounding country. He built a church at Salix, near Sioux City, and also superintended the erection of a parsonage at that place. He assisted all the missions along the Missouri Valley on the Iowa side. In 1886 he founded St. Joseph's church at Sioux City and labored diligently to get it in a good working condition. In fact, so arduous were his labors that his health became impaired and in 1889 he returned to his native country in order to recuperate. A year later he returned, and was stationed at Manson, Iowa, where he erected the mission house and rebuilt the church at that place. Here he remained until 1903, doing splendid work and building up the church in every way. At the beginning of his ministry at Manson there were but four families under his charge and before he left he had the satisfaction of

seeing his parishioners largely augmented and the church in a prosperous condition. While at Manson he also attended the missions of Pomeroy and Great Barnum, and built churches at each place. At Pomeroy the church was unfortunate in having to rebuild their edifice no less than twice because of destruction by storms and fire. The storm which destroyed the church at Pomeroy killed and maimed one hundred and ten people and was one of the most destructive cyclones which ever swept over this part of the state. At the time of this unfortunate catastrophe Father Daly worked a whole week without sleep, doing everything he possibly could to alleviate the suffering of the unfortunate people.

In 1903 Father Daly came to Sioux City and took charge of St. Joseph's Hospital, and was made chaplain of the Good Shepherd's Home. Here he labored for the next three years, after which he was transferred to Wall Lake, in Sac county, and placed in charge of St. Joseph's church. He completed the church, which was in the course of erection, and cleared off a debt of three thousand dollars. Since taking charge of this church he has remodeled the parsonage and modernized it in every way. His work in this place is appreciated, not only by the people of his own denomination, but by every public-spirited citizen who is interested in the advancement of civilization, whether it be by a Catholic church or a Protestant denomination. The work which Father Daly has done since coming into Iowa has made for better citizenship, better homes and if he fails to receive his reward in this world he has the assurance that he has not labored in vain.

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#### LACEY A. WINE.

There is no positive rule which, if followed, will enable one to achieve success, and yet in the lives of successful men there are always lessons which can be emulated by others. The man who gains prosperity is he who can see and utilize the opportunities which arise before him in his upward path. The essential conditions forming the environments of most human lives are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly, and when one man passes another on the highway of life to reach the goal of prosperity before others who perhaps started out before him, it is because he has the power to use his advantages for the furtherance of his own desires. Today, among the prominent citizens and successful business men of Sac City stands Lacey A. Wine. He possesses qualities of leadership among his fellows and



LACEY A. WINE



business ability of a high degree which have made him a man of substance in the community.

Lacey A. Wine was born February 13, 1867, in Sac City. His parents are William G. Wine and Mary Jane (Criss) Wine, early pioneer residents of Sac City. William G. is a native of Indiana and son of William Wine, whose nativity was the state of West Virginia. William migrated with his family from Indiana in 1855 on his way to California, but the family finally settled on the connection line north of Sac City when there were but few residents here, and the country around about was but thinly settled. William, the father of William G., opened one of the first general stores in Sac City, and was accounted a well-to-do citizen, being the proud possessor of a horse and carriage which was looked upon as an unheard-of luxury by the early settlers. He drove one hundred head of cattle from Indiana to Iowa and pastured them upon the great free ranges which were in existence at that time. He finally realized his ambition to make the trip to the far West, and set out for California by the overland route. He eventually reached the mountains, but lost his life in the ranges while prospecting for the precious metals. William G. Wine was reared to manhood in Sac City and followed the business of contractor and builder until his retirement in 1898. He is now residing in California. He served as a volunteer soldier in an Iowa regiment during the Civil War. When a young man he married Mary Jane Criss, a daughter of Hon. Eugene Criss, a very prominent figure in Sac county history, of whom our historian is pleased to write at considerable length elsewhere in this volume. To Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Wine were born four children, namely: Lacey A.; Mrs. Lamont Lee, of Mason City, Iowa; Mrs. J. B. Rowe, Los Angeles, California, and Mrs. Delmont Goldsmith, who died in 1893.

L. A. Wine, with whom this biography directly treats, was educated in the schools of his native city and completed a commercial course at Shenandoah College. During the administration of President Cleveland, he served as deputy postmaster from 1888 to 1890, inclusive. After this term he pursued his commercial course, and was then employed as salesman in a mercantile establishment until 1894. He then engaged in business for himself and opened a small shoe store which was later enlarged to include a complete stock of dry goods, groceries and a general line of merchantable goods tastefully arranged on the departmental plan. His store is modern in every respect and it has continuously enjoyed a constantly increasing trade among the better class of people of the community. Having lived his entire life in Sac county from the very earliest days of the settlement of the city and county, Mr. Wine

properly has a large number of friends and acquaintances throughout the county, exceeded by very few citizens. Politically, he is a Democrat and is widely and favorably known as a stanch worker in the ranks and a leader of his party. As a reward for his untiring efforts in behalf of the Democratic party in the county he was recently appointed to the position of postmaster of Sac City. It is safe to predict that he will serve his appointive term to the satisfaction of the government and fill the duties of the office solely in the interest of the patrons. Mr. Wine is the aggressive county chairman of the Democratic central committee and has always taken an active part in political affairs in both county and state. He has attended several Democratic state conventions in the capacity of delegate and leader, and is well known as one of the Democratic "wheel horses" of the state Democracy. He has a wide acquaintance throughout Iowa among the leaders and the rank and file of the party of Andrew Jackson and Woodrow Wilson. He is an attendant of the Episcopal church and is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Wine was married June 12, 1902, to Eu Della Kiser, of Oskaloosa, Iowa. To them have come no children, but they are rearing a child, Caroline Kerns. Mr. Wine is genial and unassuming, readily making friends everywhere and at all times, and always retains them. He gives his unqualified support to every movement which promises to be of material and moral benefit to the people, and because of his success in life and his genuine worth he is eminently entitled to fitting representation in this work.

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#### WOOSTER B. WAYT.

The fact is well authenticated by thousands of eminent illustrations that success comes as the result of unflagging energy and perseverance in the pursuit of a well-directed course of action previously determined upon. It is seldom known to visit the laggards or the drones and is the outcome of diligence and foresight. Only the men who have continuously sought fortune's favor have been amply rewarded. The individual is doubly successful of whom it can be said "He is an honest man and is deserving of the rewards which have come to him directly through his own efforts." In tracing the life history of the influential manufacturer and public spirited citizen whose name forms the caption of this review, it is plainly seen that the prosperity which he enjoys has been won by the exercise of commend-



able quantities, and the high esteem in which he and his firm are held has been bestowed because of personal worth.

Wooster B. Wayt, senior member of the firm of W. B. Wayt & Son, monument manufacturers and dealers of Sac City, Iowa, was born May 10, 1849, in the city of Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. He is the son of Dr. William C. Wayt, a descendant of the ancestral followers of William Penn, and who emigrated to Pennsylvania from England at the time of the original Quaker settlement of Philadelphia. His mother was Elizabeth McCallister, who was the daughter of Scotch parents, and whose brother was a well-known merchant of Aberdeen, Scotland. William C. Wayt and wife were the parents of eleven children, several of whom came to Iowa, as follows: John, of Springville, Arkansas; Margaret, deceased; Wooster B.; Frank, deceased; Ira, deceased.

Dr. William C. Wayt was a physician of the eclectic school and was educated for the practice of his profession in the famous Medical College of Philadelphia. Doctor Wayt was a famous and skilful physician, the highest praise of whom can be given inasmuch as he was one of that self-immolating class who cared little for the monetary rewards of his calling and frequently worked himself to the point of physical exhaustion in effecting cures of the ills which beset mankind with whom he came in contact. When Wooster B. was yet a child the family set out for the West, traveling mostly by stage. Doctor Wayt located for a time in the city of Cincinnati, where for a period of two years, from 1850 to 1852, he served as a hospital surgeon. From 1852 to 1856 he practiced his profession in Brookville, Franklin county, Indiana, which is located some miles northwest of Cincinnati. He again set his face westward and northward with the path of empire. At this period the city of Galena, Illinois, was the gateway to the great Northwest and it was only natural that the Doctor should travel in that direction. The long overland journey was made principally by stage. He and his family started for Marion, Iowa, and traveled the distance of forty-four miles from Dubuque to Independence principally on foot; in fact, two-thirds of this distance was traversed afoot. On April 1, 1856, they arrived in Marion, Iowa, where the Doctor practiced for four years. In 1860 he journeyed to Buchanan county and established his office and home in Frienk's Grove. Here they remained until 1865, enduring the hardships of the pioneer life of those early days. The pioneers of the locality had little money with which to pay for medicine and it was necessary for the Doctor to take farm products for his professional services. These were the days of the log cabin, the tallow dip, the home-made furniture and low prices for farm

products. The Doctor's family were denied the commonest of luxuries and even sugar was an unheard-of and expensive luxury which few could afford. What sugar was used in the household was of the coarsest Orleans kind and was very scarce. Money was scarce and it required a considerable amount of farm produce to even get a few cents in return. They transported chickens a distance of fourteen miles away to Independence and sold them for one dollar per dozen, irrespective of weight or quality. Wheat sold for thirty-eight cents per bushel. Mr. Wayt recalls that kerosene first appeared as an illuminant in 1860 and it was considered exceedingly dangerous to use it at that time in the crude lamps of the period. The Doctor soon moved onward to a newer field and in 1865 removed to Millersburg, Illinois, where he remained for two years. He then returned to Iowa and located in Cedar Rapids in 1865, where his faithful and loving wife died in 1866. Doctor Wayt remained in Cedar Rapids until 1894, when he came to Sac City to make his final home with his son, Wooster B. Here he passed away in the fullness of his long years of usefulness in 1901.

Wooster B. Wayt, with whom this narrative is more intimately concerned, received his education in the public schools and the academy at Wilton Junction. When he was sixteen years of age he became a tinner's apprentice, and worked at his trade at Blairstown, Iowa; later he was employed in Cedar Rapids and Tama, Iowa. For a period of five and one-half years he served as foreman of the tin and copper working department of the Rock Island Railroad at Grand Junction, Iowa. In the year 1887 he engaged in the monument business with his brother Frank at Jefferson, Iowa. He and his brother had previously effected a partnership at Tama, Iowa, in 1876, but Wooster B. was not satisfied with the progress of the business and sold out and returned to his trade of tinner.

In the year 1890 he came to Sac City and laid the foundation for the present extensive and profitable business conducted by the firm. He first established a small shop and the business steadily grew and the products found increasing popularity with the people. The monument works of W. B. Wayt & Son ranks as one of the most important institutions of its kind in western Iowa. Special notice is devoted to this concern in the pages of the history proper of Sac county. This notice traces the growth of the business from its very inception to the erection of the present handsome and commodious manufacturing and office building located near the Northwestern depot. It has several branch houses and connections in Aberdeen, Scotland, from which point the finest granite is imported to this country for use in their manufacturing operations. In the year 1901 his son, L. R.

Wayt, was admitted to the firm as junior partner. Father and son make an excellent working combination, which means greater and increasing prestige for this well-known establishment. The history of this highly developed institution spells "Success" in the fullest meaning of the word. The firm gave ample evidence of its progressive spirit by the donation and erection of a beautiful and appropriate soldiers' memorial monument to Gen. W. T. Sherman Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of Sac City, a generous gift which is highly appreciated by the people in general. The tall spire of this tasteful example of the sculptor's art rears its way heavenward in all its pristine simplicity in a commanding spot in the cemetery. Mr. Wayt has large holdings of property in addition to his business and has been interested in lands for several years, being the owner of tracts of land in North Dakota, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma and Texas. He is known as a shrewd investor and an excellent judge of land values throughout the country.

The marriage of this well-known citizen occurred April 27, 1871, at Cedar Rapids. Here he was joined in wedlock with Emeretta A. Marsh, daughter of Lambertus Walter and Regina (Blunt) Marsh. Lambertus W. Marsh was born March 5, 1827, in Pompey, Onondago county, New York. He was left an orphan when very young and was reared by an uncle in Syracuse, New York. In the year 1845 he migrated to Kenosha, Wisconsin, and thence to Antioch, Illinois, where he engaged in farming. In 1863 he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-Fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteers, and served until the close of the Civil War. In 1868 he removed with his family to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and thence to his farm in Greene county, Iowa. Later, in 1885, he retired to a residence in Grand Junction, where he died January 23, 1912. He was a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Marsh was married April 1, 1850, to Regina Blunt, who bore him five daughters, namely: Mrs. W. B. Wayt; Mrs. Hattie Smith, deceased; Mrs. E. W. Rogers, of Patterson, New Jersey; Mrs. O. L. Harmon, of Wallowa, Oregon, and Mrs. William Patterson, of Grand Junction, Iowa. The widow of Mr. Marsh now makes her home with Mr. Wayt in Sac City.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayt have reared the following children: W. E., who married Mary Otis Lee and is the father of four children, Walter Lee, Retta, Lorene and Worth. He removed from Sac City to a large ranch near Mott, North Dakota, in 1909. The second son is Leon R., whose biography appears herein and who is associated with his father in the monument business. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wayt also have one daughter, Mrs. Velma Grable, of Sac City.

Mr. Wayt is politically allied with the Democratic party and is a staunch

member of the Christian church in his home city. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity. He has not only been eminently successful in his business pursuits, but he does his duty as a citizen in ways which are influential and are for lasting and permanent good to the community at large. Recognizing the fact that a town is best known by the quality of its citizenship and the extent of its public improvements, Mr. Wayt is generally found in the forefront of movements resulting in the installation of municipal betterments. He and his talented son are found in the van of those seeking the advancement of Sac City and have used their influence in furthering the wave of civic betterment and the installation of public improvements which is at present sweeping the city. The friends of this successful manufacturer are legion and he ranks as a familiar and commanding figure throughout the county and western Iowa.

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#### LEON R. WAYT.

We are living in an age of continuous achievement. It is likewise the era of opportunity in many lines for the young men of the present day who are gifted with natural ability and the desire to progress ahead of their fellows in the race for supremacy. Yet, competition along certain well-defined lines is greater than ever before. Only the most diligent and the most honorable can achieve a substantial measure of success. Honesty of product and a rigid exactitude in conducting trade operations along the most upright paths of procedure will result in suitable and fitting rewards. In Sac City and county the pioneers in many occupations are making way for the younger element of the population; the younger generation are assuming the burdens of trade and business and are forging to the front with a wider scope than that exhibited by their predecessors owing to the fact that present-day pressure of business demands the widening out of their sphere of operations and the boundless ambition frequently possessed by the sons. A striking example of progressive young manhood is Leon R. Wayt, with whom the biographer is pleased to treat in a reminiscent way for insertion in the pages of this history. Mr. Wayt is undoubtedly one of the rising and promising young men of the city whose career is well defined and bids fair to be remarkably successful in future years as it has been in the past. Possessed of a bright mental equipment, ability to grasp the details of a subject under his consideration, keenly alive to his opportunities, and endowed with the happy faculty of making friends and with business ability of a high

order, he is making rapid progress in his chosen field as the junior member of the widely and favorably known firm of W. B. Wayt & Son, monument manufacturers and dealers.

Leon R. Wayt was born December 14, 1878, in the town of Mechanicsville, Iowa, the son of W. B. Wayt, whose biography is herein presented. He was educated in the public schools of Grand Junction, Jefferson and Sac City. He also studied the classics and science in the Sac City Institute and the Northern Indiana Normal University at Valparaiso, Indiana. He completed his course in the latter institution of learning in 1898. He was then engaged for a period of two years in the grocery business in Sac City in partnership with his brother, W. E. Wayt. However, for some time after leaving school he was employed in the monument works conducted by his father, thus giving him an opportunity to learn the details of manufacture and selling which later stood him in good stead. In the year 1901 he was admitted to partnership with his father and assumed a considerable portion of the burdens of conducting a large and growing business which had attained state-wide reputation for the excellence and honesty of its product. His push and enterprise are assisting in great measure in extending and widening the scope of the business done by this important and growing concern. His activity is not exactly confined to the business in which he became primarily interested, and he is president of the Sac City Catering Company, a concern recently organized by a number of the young men of the city. Mr. Wayt has been especially active and influential in the civic affairs of Sac City. In every enterprise of community interest that makes for social interdependence and municipal solidarity he is found battling for its cause. He was one of the organizers of the Sac City Commercial Club, and is now chairman of its executive committee. He was chairman of the Commercial Club committee that gave to the city the handsome new Park Hotel, and it is no disparagement to others to say that the burden of promotion and the raising of the eighteen thousand dollars for this building fell upon him. He is now one of the trustees of this valuable hotel property. When the proposal to pave the streets of Sac City was being agitated, Mr. Wayt assumed the initiative in advocating this important public improvement. As chairman of the committee, he circulated the original petitions for street paving and personally secured every signer. Mr. Wayt was also chairman of the committee that raised the funds for the electrolier lighting systems that beautifies the city.

In numerous ways Mr. Wayt has performed a distinct public service in giving of his time and talents to every worthy enterprise that will make for

a bigger and better town, and no citizen of Sac City is deserving of greater praise for unselfish work in behalf of civic pride and commercial supremacy. He takes a keen interest in local affairs and is at present a member of the school board. Politically, he is allied with the Republican party. He and his family are attendants of the Presbyterian church, and he is a fraternal member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, lodge, chapter and commandery of Sac City, and the Des Moines Consistory, being a Mason of the thirty-second degree.

Mr. Wayt was married November 11, 1901, to Blaine Lamoreux, daughter of D. M. and Alice Lamoreux, of Sac City. They have three children, namely: Margaret Fern, born December 11, 1903; Vivian Louise, born February 5, 1905; Donald Eugene, born October 26, 1907.

We know of no young citizen of Sac county more worthy or more deserving of mention in this volume than he of whom the foregoing is written. It is with the object in view of presenting a brief review of his life, ambitions and accomplishments that we present this compendium for perusal by his friends and well wishers, who are legion.

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## JOHN FUCHS.

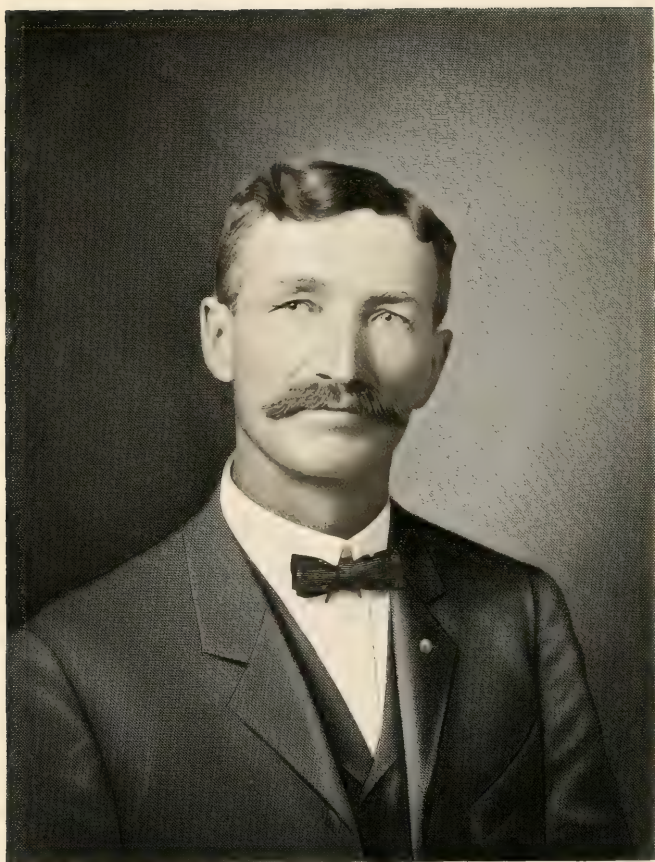
Upon a county official rests a certain amount of responsibility which he assumes when he is ushered into one of the highest local offices within the gift of his friends and fellow citizens. The people usually weigh carefully the qualifications of the candidates for political preferment for important office. Upon the county supervisor devolves the business management of the county affairs. Naturally, the duties of the position require the energies of a very capable man. Sac county has such a man as a member of the county board of supervisors in John Fuchs, of Odebolt, who is likewise one of the most successful agriculturists in the county.

John Fuchs was born February 3, 1858, in Germany, the son of Henry and Martha Fuchs, who emigrated to America in 1867 and settled in Lee county, Illinois, locating at Lee Center. In 1879 the family moved to Dallas county, Iowa, where the father died in the winter of 1905. The mother died in 1904. They were the parents of six children, namely: George, living in Early; Hattie Ebner, living in Perry, Iowa; John; Mrs. Lizzie Frohm, deceased; Charles, of Laurens, Iowa; W. A., of Bedford, Iowa.

John Fuchs was reared and educated in Lee county, Illinois, where he







John Fuchs



Mrs Elizabeth C. Fuchs.



resided until 1877, when he came to Sac county. For the first two years he worked on farms at a wage of twenty dollars per month. In 1879 he rented land and began farming on his own account. He had made his first purchase of land before marriage in Richland township, where he bought eighty acres of land at a purchase price of seven dollars an acre, but sold the same six months later for twelve dollars an acre. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, on which he resided until 1912. He removed to Odebolt in that year where he has a very fine residence. He has a large farm of six hundred and eighty acres, well improved with fine buildings and grounds. He has long been an extensive live stock producer, his large farm producing great numbers of marketable cattle.

Mr. Fuchs has been twice married: his first wife was Katharine Reinhart, who died in 1901, and was the mother of six children, namely: Mrs. Lenore C. Hein, of Sac City; Ozro C., a farmer in Clinton township, who is a graduate of Ames College; Mrs. Lucillia Mehlebrech; Iva B., a graduate of the domestic science department of Ames College in 1913 and is now the head of the department of domestic science in the Grand View Normal College, Tennessee; Warren, a graduate of the Ames Agricultural College; Vern, a student at Ames. Mr. Fuchs' second marriage occurred in 1907 with Lizzie Pfeiffer, who has borne him four children, as follows: Rufus John, Wayne, Martha and Amber.

O. C. Fuchs, who is managing his father's large farm in Clinton township, was born March 2, 1884, in Clinton township on the farm where he now lives. He was educated in the district schools and Morningside College, where he pursued the preparatory and business courses. He completed the course in animal husbandry at Ames College in 1909. After graduation he took up the vocation of farming and stock raising. He disposes of over fifty head of cattle annually and over twenty-five head of swine. He keeps a good grade of Angus cattle and specializes in Berkshire hogs. O. C. Fuchs is the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of land located south of the home farm in Clinton township. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the German Reformed church. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

John Fuchs, with whom this narrative is directly concerned, has long been identified prominently with the Democratic party in Sac county and has been high in the councils of his party. He was elected county supervisor in the spring of 1910 and took up the duties of his office in January of 1911. It can be said of him that he is an excellent and conscientious public

official. He has been re-nominated to this office, without opposition, in 1914. He is a member and a ruling elder of the Odebolt Presbyterian church. His lodge connections are with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, chapter and commandery, and the Mystic Shriners of Sioux City and the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Fuchs is easily recognized as one of the leading and enterprising citizens of Sac county and is a representative of the large German class who have settled in the county and taken a high place among the citizenship of many neighborhoods. He is dignified, intelligent, progressive and lends his assistance to all matters of merit which have a tendency to promote the general welfare of the people of his community and county. No man is more fully entitled to representation in this history of Sac county than Mr. Fuchs.

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#### ANDERSON MASON.

While notable and conspicuous achievements in the history of a community will continue to occupy the attention of the lovers of history, it is with the accomplishments of the pioneer and the individual who has contributed his ability along the average lines of human endeavor that these annals of Sac county principally deal. Frequently, from among the mass of individuals with whom the writer is brought into intimate contact, there are certain figures which stand prominently in the forefront and have, through being endowed high above the average of native ability, carved a particular place of vantage among their fellows and hold an unshakable position in the community in which they reside. The pioneer life of Sac county is conspicuous, because of the excellence of its personnel and having enrolled in its roster a number of genuinely advanced men of ideas and capabilities of leadership in their own particular sphere. One who has been identified with the history of this county for over forty years and enjoys a reputation and a popularity as a person of broad-minded proclivities and singular attainments, is Anderson Mason, of Early.

Mr. Mason was born December 5, 1838, in Clinton county, Ohio, and is one of a large quota of citizens which that state has contributed to the well being and progress of Sac county. His father was Bagwell A. Mason, a native of Richmond, Virginia, and a scion of Scotch ancestry. His mother was Nancy B. Butler, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland. In the year 1851, B. A. Mason migrated to La Salle county, Illinois, and settled on a

farm. He resided in this county until his death in 1854. His wife died there in 1864. They were the parents of fifteen children, namely: Henry B., Gertrude H., Sarah T., William T., Samuel R., Edward P., James B., Alfred, Stephen, Martha Ann, Betsy Jane, Mary Ellen and Isaiah, all deceased; Anderson, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hoy, a resident of Sandwich, Illinois. James Stephen and Samuel were soldiers in the Union army and served throughout the Civil War.

During the War of the Rebellion, Anderson was the sole support of his widowed mother, and for this reason, as well as because of the fact that the required quota of soldiers was filled when he was drafted into the service in October, 1864, he was relieved from further duty after a few weeks spent in drilling. From the time he was sixteen years of age he became the head of the family and labored to support his mother and sister. In the fall of 1864 he removed to a farm in Grand Rapids township, La Salle county, which he cultivated for two years. He then journeyed to Franklin county, Kansas, in 1866, and lived on his sister's farm for one year. He returned to La Salle county in 1867 and, after a year's residence in his home county, settled on a farm in Livingston county, Illinois. Five years later he again decided to follow the star of empire westward and in 1871 came to Sac county. His first purchase was for one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 17, Boyer Valley township. He erected a small house, of one story, which sufficed for his home for some years and was later replaced by a handsome farm residence. The Mason family were the seventh to locate in the west part of Sac county. The country was very sparsely settled and settlers were few and far between. The Masons got along first rate and suffered few hardships. In 1878 Mr. Mason added the adjoining one hundred and sixty acres to his possessions and created what is widely and favorably known as Green Bush Stock Farm. It is now divided into two farms which are known as East and West Greenbush and are tilled by his two sons. He was a pioneer breeder of fine stock in Sac county. The farm became famous for the quality of its pure bred live stock and was a large producer of Short-horn cattle, Norman Percheron horses, and Poland China hogs. It is likewise noted for its well-kept buildings and barns. In 1888 he removed to the town of Early and purchased a fine residence. He is also the owner of a large brick business building situated on the main street of the town.

Mr. Mason has generally been allied with the Republican party and has figured prominently in the official life of Boyer Valley township, of which he was the first school treasurer, holding this office for several years. He also served as township trustee for a long period. Since making Early his



residence he has filled the office of mayor for two terms. For several years he was vice-president of the Early State Bank. At one time he ran his opponent a very close race for the office of county supervisor and also held the important position of county road supervisor by appointment, and it was due to his suggestion and personal influence that the county roads were established along sectional lines. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Mason's wedded life began on January 1, 1862, when he was married to Marion Elizabeth Hart, of La Salle county, the daughter of Jason and Juline (Lewis) Hart, natives of Vermont and who were early pioneer settlers of Branch county, Michigan. Five children have been born to this highly esteemed couple: Grant, who died at the age of two years; Arthur L., who resides on East Greenbush farm, and is the parent of four children, Chester, Virgie May, Emma Marian and Duane; Elmer, residing on West Greenbush farm, and has two children, Opal May and Elmer Ellsworth; Mrs. May Evans, of Early, who is the mother of three children, Foy Dewey, Arla and Leland Anderson; Mrs. Rose Jackson, deceased, who is survived by two children, Verla Jeannette and James Alton.

Mr. Mason's family are a credit to him and his good wife, and are blessed with the same sterling qualities which have enabled him to achieve such success as has been his lot. This history of Sac county would be incomplete were it deficient in a proper estimate of his usefulness and this compendium is intended for a slight tribute to him and his for the part they have taken in making this county what it is today.

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#### FRANCIS W. WEED.

When a great railroad thinks of expansion it examines crop conditions. When a great insurance company has money to invest, it examines crop conditions. When a general statement of business throughout the country is in process of preparation, the crop conditions are examined, and always the farmer's wealth is found to be the most secure and constantly increasing. Why? Because the land itself is the foundation of all true prosperity. The farmer not only feeds them all, but acts as the balance wheel and wealth builder of his nation and lives a more happy and contented life than his misguided brother. He is the final force that turns the wheels of factories; his land is the basis of security, the foundation of credit, the great factor of



prosperity and constitutes ninety per cent of our nation's wealth. Sac county is essentially an agricultural county; this volume, therefore, contains the biographies of more plain farmers than of any other class. What better reading could one desire? Who has made greater achievements in this wonderful land of the West than the farmer? None are more deserving of just tributes to their accomplishments than the farmers. One of the most advanced and progressive of the prosperous farmers of the county is Francis W. Weed, of Levey township, who is likewise the oldest living settler of the township. For forty-four years he has resided on his beautiful landed estate among the rolling hills of Levey township; for over forty years he has aided in the development of Sac county and taken an active part in the affairs of his township and county.

F. W. Weed has one of the finest equipped farms in the western part of Iowa, situated in section 33, Levey township, and consisting of two hundred and forty acres of rich and fertile land. The Illinois Central and the Chicago & Northwestern Railroads cross his lands. His first residence, erected in 1871, was a small affair, sixteen by twenty feet in dimension and nine feet in height. This served as a habitation for his family until 1886, when he set about the building of a large, modern house which stands in a commanding and attractive position on the hilltop overlooking the fertile valley forming part of his domain. Three large barns, fitted with modern conveniences, occupy suitable places on the slope stretching away from the residence. The largest of these is fifty-six by sixty feet in extent, the second in size being forty by fifty-eight feet in dimension, and a third twenty-four by twenty-four feet in extent, and a corn crib having a capacity of over two thousand bushels of grain. Mr. Weed specialized in the breeding of Shorthorn cattle for ten years, but is now gradually replacing his Shorthorns with Improved Polled Durhams and is using his great skill as a breeder to evolve a breed of Shorthorn cattle without the semblance of horns. He has been successful in accomplishing his desire in this respect and now has a large herd of seventy-five registered thoroughbreds. His farm produces over two hundred head of swine annually. He prides himself on his fine horses. The Weed farm presents one of the most attractive views which it has been the privilege of the historian to view and is typical of the industry and taste of its owner.

Francis W. Weed was born in the town of Hampshire, Kane county, Illinois, June 7, 1847. His father was Elisha Weed, a native of Trumbull county, Ohio. His mother was Julia Ann Hartman Weed, a native of Pennsylvania, of the old Pennsylvania German stock. Elisha Weed was

born in Bloomfield township, Trumbull county, Ohio, August 20, 1817. He was the son of John Weed, who was a native of New Bangor, Maine. John Weed was of Scotch-English descent, and served as a sergeant in the American army in the War of 1812, enlisting at the age of eighteen years, and fought in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. When Elisha Weed was a young man, he migrated to the state of Indiana and was employed on public construction works. From 1836 to 1842 he followed public construction employment in Bartholomew, Johnson, Floyd and Tippecanoe counties of Indiana. During this time he rented land and was likewise engaged in farming. He was married at Blue River, Bartholomew county, Indiana, March 10, 1842, to Julia A. Hartman, who was born near Little York, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1822, and was the daughter of Francis and Magdalena Gilbert Hartman, who were of German ancestry. She died March 9, 1912, at the age of ninety years. Elisha, soon after his marriage, removed to Kane county, Illinois, in 1845. He traveled by ox wagon the whole distance. On his arrival in the territory of his choice for a homestead, he purchased forty acres of land in section 27, Hampshire township. To this farm he eventually added one hundred and twenty acres more, which he brought to a high state of cultivation. He was a Freemason and a Whig, but was a Republican when the party was organized. He held many offices. He removed from the farm to the town of Hampshire in 1893, and departed this life in the fullness of years and honors, February 13, 1900. He was the father of four children, as follows: Mrs. Helen M. Starks, deceased; Francis W.; George A., of Wall Lake, Iowa; Frederick Weed, a resident of Hampshire, Illinois.

It is of Francis W. Weed, however, that this biography is directly concerned. He had little opportunity to obtain an education and was placed at work when twelve years old. His father having settled in the timber country, a great amount of "grubbing" was necessary so as to increase the tillable area of land from year to year. Francis followed this arduous occupation for two years and was paid wages when he became of age by his father for his labor. He saved all money that he received for his work and conceived an ambition to journey to Sac county, Iowa, and there engage in farming for himself. He became afflicted with the "Western fever," which was then spreading in the neighborhood, and caused many of the best representatives of the Illinois farming gentry to come West and buy the cheap lands which were being offered to settlers. He came, saw, and was convinced to such an extent that he invested in two hundred acres of land where he now resides. This land cost him three and one-third dollars

an acre. Later he added forty acres to his holdings at a cost of eight dollars an acre. He has figured prominently in the organization of the county and was the first assessor of Levey township, having several times served in that capacity. He has filled the office of township trustee several terms and has served as secretary and treasurer and president of the township school board.

Mr. Weed is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is affiliated with the Masonic lodge at Wall Lake, Iowa. He became a Mason as soon as he had attained his majority—in fact, he has retained his membership since the year 1868. He was first connected with Westside Lodge, and later was enrolled a charter member of Wall Lake Lodge of Masons.

Mr. Weed was united in marriage with Rachel Dean, March 29, 1871. Mrs. Weed was born on a farm in McHenry county, Illinois, June 23, 1849, and is the daughter of Richard and Mary (Brook) Dean. Richard Dean was a native of England who first settled in McHenry county, Illinois, and came to Sac county in 1878, settling in the same neighborhood as Mr. Weed. He was born October 23, 1813, and died May 15, 1880. He was the father of six children by two marriages: Sarah and Richard, deceased; Thomas, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; John J., a farmer residing in Levey township; Mrs. Mary A. Dawson, of South Dakota; Mrs. Susanna Harrison, of McHenry county, Illinois, these being children of the first union. By the second marriage there were the following offspring: Henry and Edward L., deceased; Rachel B. Weed; Cary, a resident of Nebraska; Mrs. Maria Ocock, of McHenry county, Illinois; Charles B., former postmaster of Wall Lake, who died in August, 1912; and Mrs. Emma L. Marsh, residing in McHenry county, Illinois.

To the union of Francis and Rachel (Dean) Weed have been born and reared four children, namely: Mrs. Carrie Hay, now residing with her parents, and who is the mother of one child, Bernice May; Harry E. Weed, a farmer in Levey township; Mrs. Edith A. Tounget, who resides on a farm near Odebolt, Iowa, and is the mother of one son, Claude Harold; Fred E., at home.

George A. Weed, brother of Francis W., came to Iowa on August 20, 1870, and for the first four years of his residence here tilled the soil in partnership with his brother. Later, he settled on the farm adjoining that of Frank and here resided until 1909, when he made a trip to California and the Pacific coast and then settled in the town of Wall Lake. He was born February 22, 1850, and was married to Jane Tait October 23, 1874. His wife died without issue.

The greatest tribute that we can pay this active and sturdy pioneer is that he is a true son of the soil and a great lover of animals, who desires nothing better than to spend his days in looking after his well-loved acres and each year contributing the result of his endeavors for the sustenance of his fellow men. The biographer agrees with him in the time-tried maxim that "Farmers are born, not made." The results which he has attained as a plain agriculturist entitle him to rank high among the citizens of this great country, and this review is herein presented in further recognition of his attainments. Hospitable to the core, his home is open to his friends and those with whom he has dealings. His wife is a fitting helpmeet for one who is deserving of commendation.

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#### BEN BROUGHTON.

While many essentials contribute in the making of a successful man, there is usually one strong predominating trait which stands out in relief and furnishes the foundation for the development of the faculties with which he has been naturally endowed. Inborn intelligence, with a broad mentality, when found to be a well marked characteristic of a successful man in whatever sphere of usefulness his lot may be cast, is responsible for his transformation to the realms of successful endeavor and his taking a rightful place as a leader among men. Naturally, Sac county, being an agricultural county, the greatest successes are found to be among the agricultural class of this rich and fertile portion of mother earth. The science of animal husbandry is one of the most important divisions of agriculture and many of the followers of this highly productive vocation are known far beyond the borders of their neighborhood because of the distribution of the product of their skill and profound knowledge of the breeding of live stock. Ben Broughton, live stock breeder of Lake View, Iowa, is one of the best known stock men in this section of Iowa, and is, withal, a citizen of excellent attainments and education.

Mr. Broughton has a beautiful farm of two hundred acres within the corporate limits of Lake View and has a handsome modern home which sits on the hillside overlooking the town and the lake in the distance. No more favorable spot for a residence and farmstead is to be found in the length and breadth of the state than that of the Broughton farm. The home is surrounded by great trees which cast their beneficent and welcome



BEN BROUGHTON



shade over well-kept lawns and grounds. Three large stock barns, fitted with every modern convenience and with adjacent silos, are situated at some distance from the residence. Mr. Broughton has what is considered to be the finest breed barns in Sac county without exception. For eighteen years he has been a breeder of fine live stock and has attained the highest success in this difficult vocation. He maintains a herd of one hundred thoroughbred registered Herefords and disposes of about fifty head annually at an average price of two hundred dollars each. His famous herd has been exhibited at various county fairs and live stock shows throughout the country and the proprietor has an accumulation of blue ribbons and first premium prizes that are truly enviable. His herd of Herefords have taken first premiums at the Sac county fair, the Shelby county fair, the Lyon county fair, the Iowa state fairs, and the Sioux City fair, having taken both first and second prizes on many occasions.

Mr. Broughton is likewise an extensive breeder of Poland China hogs and at this writing he has over one hundred head of registered stock, among them being some prize winning sires. The breeding of Percheron horses is another speciality of this versatile farmer and at this vocation he is also making a success.

Ben Broughton was born May 25, 1871, on a farm in DeKalb county, Illinois. His father was C. W. Broughton, who was born in 1817 and died in 1893. His mother before her marriage was Caroline Churchill, a member of the famous Churchill family of which Winston Churchill is a member. The Churchill family trace their ancestry back to the "Mayflower", on which the original founder of the American family came to America, seeking religious freedom with the Pilgrim fathers. C. W. Broughton was the father of nine children, namely: Charles Preston, of Jackson county, Missouri; Mrs. Ella B. Woods, of DeKalb county, Illinois; Mrs. May Kingsley, also a resident of DeKalb county, Illinois; Ben; and two sons by second marriage, Charles Beers and Chauncey W., residing in DeKalb county, Illinois. The mother of Ben Broughton died May 29, 1871, and the father remarried.

In the year 1894 Mr. Broughton came to Lake View, Iowa, from his home in Illinois and in the fall of 1894 purchased an interest in a local hardware store. He was engaged in the hardware business for three years and then disposed of his interest and purchased the Sunny Slope Stock Farm. Since purchasing the farm he has remodeled and practically rebuilt all of the buildings on the place and greatly improved the farm until it is one of the most valuable tracts of land in the county. One hundred



and twenty-five acres of this land cost him seventy dollars an acre and eighty acres additional, bought in the spring of 1912, cost one hundred and thirty-three dollars an acre. He laid off a portion of this land which is now a part of Lake View proper and is officially known as Broughton's addition to the town of Lake View.

Mr. Broughton was married in the fall of 1894 to Alice B. Cleveland, of Dekalb county, Illinois, who is a distant relative of the late President Grover Cleveland. They have two children: Lois Marie, who is attending the Lake View high school, and Chauncey Preston Broughton.

Politically, Mr. Broughton is a Republican who has long been identified prominently with his party in Sac county and has taken an active part in political affairs. He has served one term as trustee of Wall Lake township and has filled the office of city councilman two terms and has served as a member, secretary and treasurer of the Lake View school board for over fourteen years. In the fall of 1908 he was elected a member of the board of county supervisors and filled the office capably and well for a period of three years. He is a Mason of blue lodge, chapter, commandery and Shrine, and a Woodman and is well and favorably known as a progressive and enterprising citizen who is always found in the forefront of the advocates of better citizenship and the advancement of his home city's best interest. This can be said of him with truth and conviction, even recognizing the fact that Lake View is noted far and wide for the hustling, progressive spirit which pervades the rank and file of its citizens. He is a live member of the body politic in a city which has its full quota of live, wide-awake men of affairs.

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#### DAN D. CARLTON.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men who have succeeded in their special vocations in Sac county, Iowa, and at the same time are impressing their personalities on the community, men who are conferring honor on the locality in which they reside, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of the gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph, for he is an important factor in the business life of his community. The splendid success which has come to him has been the direct result of the salient points in his character, for, with a mind capable of laying judicious plans and a will strong enough to carry them into execution, his energy, foresight

and perseverance have carried him forward to a position in the front rank of the successful men of his community. He has carried forward to a successful completion whatever he has undertaken, and his methods have ever been in strict conformity with the standard ethics of commercial life. He has taken an intelligent interest in the civic life of the community and has earned the high regard in which he is held by all who know him.

Dan D. Carlton, vice-president of the Citizens State Bank of Early, Iowa, and retired merchant of that city, was born January 31, 1862, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. His parents, E. W. and Nancy R. (Fuller) Carlton, were both natives of New Hampshire, and shortly after the birth of D. D. Carlton they moved back to their old home in New Hampshire, where the father died in 1903, and the mother is still residing in that state, nearly seventy-seven years of age. E. W. Carlton and wife were the parents of a large family of children: Mrs. Anna Hunter, of Wall Lake, Iowa; Edward, of Dubuque, Iowa; Guy, of Washta, Iowa; Mrs. Etta Siscoe; Mrs. Nellie Marshall; Fred, of New Hampshire; D. D., with whom this narrative deals, and Bert, deceased.

Dan D. Carlton was educated in the public schools and Derby Academy in New Hampshire, and later graduated from Eastman's Business College, at Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1883. He immediately came west and in 1884 located in Early, Iowa, then a new town. He worked on a farm for the first year, and then began clerking in the store of H. Mohr & Son. In 1886 he became a partner of T. A. Barrett, his father-in-law, a partnership which lasted for twenty-five years, and on January 1, 1913, Mr. Carlton retired from the mercantile business, and he has been vice-president of the Citizens State Bank, of Early, since its organization. In addition to his mercantile and banking interests, he has been also interested in farming lands, and is now the owner of two hundred and fifty-five acres in Buena Vista county, Iowa, two hundred and sixty acres in Sac county and three hundred and twenty acres in South Dakota.

Mr. Carlton was married in 1886 to Kitty L. Barrett, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Barrett, and to this marriage have been born three children: Byrhl, cashier of the Citizens' State Bank, of Early; Murl, who is now a law student in the University of Michigan, and Marjorie, who is a student in the high school at Early.

Politically, Mr. Carlton is a Republican. The members of the family are all faithful adherents of the Presbyterian church. Fraternally, Mr. Carlton is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Early, includ-

ing chapter and commandery, and has served as master of the Early blue lodge. He has also served for one year as treasurer of the grand lodge of Iowa. He is also a Noble of the Mystic Shrine.

T. A. Barrett, father of Mrs. Carlton, was born April 13, 1833, in Erie county, Pennsylvania. His parents were L. W. and Martha (Wells) Barrett, natives of Vermont and New York respectively. In 1843 his parents moved to Ohio, where T. A. Barrett was educated. When twenty years of age he came to Porter county, Indiana, where he spent ten years in a general mercantile store, and in 1864 he crossed the plains to the headwaters of the Missouri in search of health, but returned to Porter county, Indiana, and in 1873 he went west again and settled in Story county, Iowa, where he spent eight years on a farm. He then came to Sac county and became one of the first settlers in the town of Early and opened the first general merchandise store in Early under the name of Thurman & Barrett. Later he bought out the interests of his partner and in 1886 took his son-in-law into the business, retiring in January, 1911, and his son-in-law, Mr. Carlton, sold out his interests two years later. Mr. Barrett erected the Early Creamery and for several years this was the pioneer creamery in northern Sac county, Iowa. In addition to his mercantile and banking interests, Mr. Barrett was interested in farm lands, and at one time was the owner of over eight hundred acres. He now owns about two hundred and fifty acres as well as a business block and dwelling houses in Early.

Mr. Barrett was married September 9, 1859, in Porter county, Indiana, to Lavina White, who was born October 27, 1835, and to this marriage were born two children, Byrhl, deceased, and Kitty L., the wife of Mr. Carlton. Mr. Barrett is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and also of the Eastern Star, while in his church affiliations he adheres to the Universalist faith.

The Citizens State Bank of Early was organized in January, 1896, by T. A. Barrett and operated as a private bank under the firm name of Barrett & Carlton. On January 1, 1911, the bank was reorganized as a state bank and Mr. Barrett has been its president since its organization. The bank has had a very successful career, as is shown by its statement to the auditor of Iowa on September 10, 1913, as follows: Resources—Loans and discounts, \$189,995.61; overdrafts, \$3,583.02; bank building and fixtures, \$6,500.00; cash and exchange, \$21,348.87; total, \$221,427.50. Liabilities—Capital, \$30,000.00; surplus fund, \$1,000.00; undivided profits, \$1,074.29; deposits, \$189,353.21; total, \$221,353.50.

## MICHAEL B. WOLF.

The town of Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, boasts of many retired farmers and whenever any county has a number of retired farmers it is an indication that they have been successful in their careers. While Sac county has thousands of German citizens, it has few who are descendants of German and French parents. Mr. Wolf has inherited the good characteristics of a German father and a French mother, and combines the thrift and frugality of both nations.

Michael B. Wolf was born February 25, 1858, in Alsace-Lorraine, and was the son of Michael and Margaret (Bartel) Wolf. His father was a sturdy German farmer, while his mother was a daughter of French parents. Michael Wolf and wife were the parents of five children: Mrs. Margaret Bachman, of Alsace-Lorraine; Michael B., with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Katherine Fleck, of Lyons, Nebraska, and two married daughters, Salome and Mary, who are living in Strasburg, Germany.

Michael B. Wolf was given an excellent common school education in the schools of Alsace-Lorraine, but early in life decided that he wanted to come to America to seek his fortune. Accordingly when he was only fifteen years of age he set sail for America and first located in Ashland, Ohio, where he worked at farm labor until 1881. However, he did not spend all of his time in Ashland county. Shortly after coming to this country—in fact, when he was only sixteen years of age—he was given the management of a large farm in Wood and Ashland counties, Ohio, and managed this farm very successfully. While living in Ohio Mr. Wolf was married in 1880, and two years later he went West and arrived in Odebolt on February 2, 1882.

Mr. Wolf arrived in Odebolt with the earnings of several years and immediately purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in section 17, Wheeler township, at a cost of twenty dollars an acre. The farm had scarcely any improvements on it at the time he purchased it, although there was a house with no plastering and only a ladder for a stairway. He gradually improved his farm until it was able to net him handsome returns each year. In 1900 he moved to Odebolt where he has an excellent place in the west part of the city. He sold eighty acres of his farm to his brother-in-law and still retains one hundred and sixty acres, which he rents out.

Mr. Wolf was married October 24, 1880, to Lelia Smith, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, but reared in Wood county, that state. She is the daughter of John Z. and Ruth Smith, natives of Dutchess county.

New York, and Connecticut, respectively. Her mother came to Odebolt after her father's death and died there.

The branch of the Smith family to which Mrs. Smith belongs can trace their ancestry back through several generations. The original John Smith, of whom she is a lineal descendant, was born July 5, 1781. He married Judy Benson, who was born in 1788, and they lived in New York until after their first two children, Hiram and Julia, were born, after which they moved to Connecticut, where John C., the father of Mrs. Wolf, was born March 20, 1812. The other children of John Smith, Sr., and wife were Julia Ann, Hiram Benson, John Z., Susan, David, Betsy, William Henry, Benjamin and George DeWitt Clinton. A son of William Henry Smith, Glen, lives on the Wolf farm in Wheeler township, Sac county, Iowa. John Z. Smith, the father of Mrs. Wolf, moved from Connecticut to Avon, Livingston county, New York, and from thence to Waukegon, Illinois. In 1851 he made the overland trip to California, where he lived for two years, after which he returned to Ohio and settled near Urbana on the famous Neil stock farm. Later he moved to Wood county, Ohio, where his death occurred. John Z. Smith married Ruth Scott, whose grandfather, Capt. Ezekiel Scott, was a famous soldier of the War of the Revolution. The father of Captain Scott was Samuel Scott. John Z. Smith's children were Mrs. M. B. Wolf; Hiram B., deceased, late of Wheeler township, this county; John H., also of Wheeler township, and Mrs. Julia Dubbs, of Wood county, Ohio.

Hiram B. Smith, a brother of Mrs. Wolf, was born in Lake county, Illinois, December 7, 1846, and was married in 1870 to Jennie Marsh, of Otsego county, New York. In 1878 H. B. Smith and family went to Ohio, and later came to Sac county, Iowa, where they purchased a half section of prairie land. To Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Smith were born two children, Ada and Lenore, and they also raised two nephews, Edmond and Maury Marsh. H. B. Smith died February 1, 1914, at Fort Orange, Florida. John H. Smith, another brother of Mrs. Wolf, was born in Cook county, Illinois, in 1852, and was married in 1885 to Rachel Keister, and came to Sac county from Ohio in 1884. He owns eighty acres of land in section 17 of this township, which he purchased from Mr. Wolf. John H. Smith and wife are the parents of four children, Ione, Hilda, Ruth and Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf have one daughter, Esther, at home.

Politically, Mr. Wolf is a Republican in national politics, but in local politics he reserves the right to cast his vote for the best man in his judgment. While Mr. Wolf was reared in the German Lutheran church, he

attends the Church of Christ with his wife, and subscribes to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while he and his wife are both members of the Odebolt Rebekah lodge. Mrs. Wolf is a charter member of this order and was the first presiding officer of the lodge. She has served as the county deputy and is prominent in the affairs of this order.

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### CLAUS LANGE.

A complete chapter might well be written as a part of the Sac county history and might also be called the "German invasion and conquest" of the prairie lands of the county, for a conquest it has been and it is still going on. A large per cent of the population of the county is either of German birth or descended from German immigrants who have since attained success in the field of agriculture and many of whom have become very wealthy and are large land owners. A representative of this class of developers is Claus Lange, retired farmer of the town of Wall Lake, who came to America when a poor boy and is now rated as one of the wealthiest men in Sac county.

Claus Lange was born June 6, 1845, in Germany, the son of Max and Anna Lange, who were of the farming class in Germany and did not leave their native land. Claus came to America in 1869, after serving two years in the German army. He located at Wheatland, Clinton county, Iowa, and worked at farm labor for five years. In 1874 he came to Sac county and rented land in Clinton township for two years. He saved his earnings in the meantime and invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 24 of Clinton township. He made this purchase on a time contract, and after he had fully paid for his first farm he bought another quarter section adjoining it. He resided in Clinton township for twenty-nine years and then moved to Wall Lake, where he and his good wife reside in one of the finest residences in the town. Mr. Lange is the owner of seven farms in Sac county, all fitted with excellent buildings and the total acreage of which will exceed one thousand eight hundred acres in Wall Lake and Coon Valley townships. His home farm, whereon he resided for nearly thirty years, is one of the finest and best-kept agricultural plants in western Iowa. It is a characteristic of this enterprising German-American that he spares no expense in keeping the buildings on his various farms in an attractive state of repair and also conserving the soil by the production of a great many head of live stock.

Mr. Lange was married February 20, 1876, in Clinton township, to Henrietta Schulte, who was born on December 2, 1857, in Germany, the daughter of John and Radamacher (Talke) Schulte. These parents came to America in 1870, locating in Grundy county, Iowa, until 1876, when they removed to Sac county and purchased a farm in Clinton township. Mr. and Mrs. Claus Lange are the parents of eight children, namely: Marcus, located on the home farm in Clinton township; John, a rancher in North Dakota; Fred, a farmer in Wall Lake township; August, in Coon Valley township; Mrs. Alma Wicker, residing in the town of Wall Lake; Adolph, a farmer of Wall Lake township; William, who lives in North Dakota; Rufus, attending school.

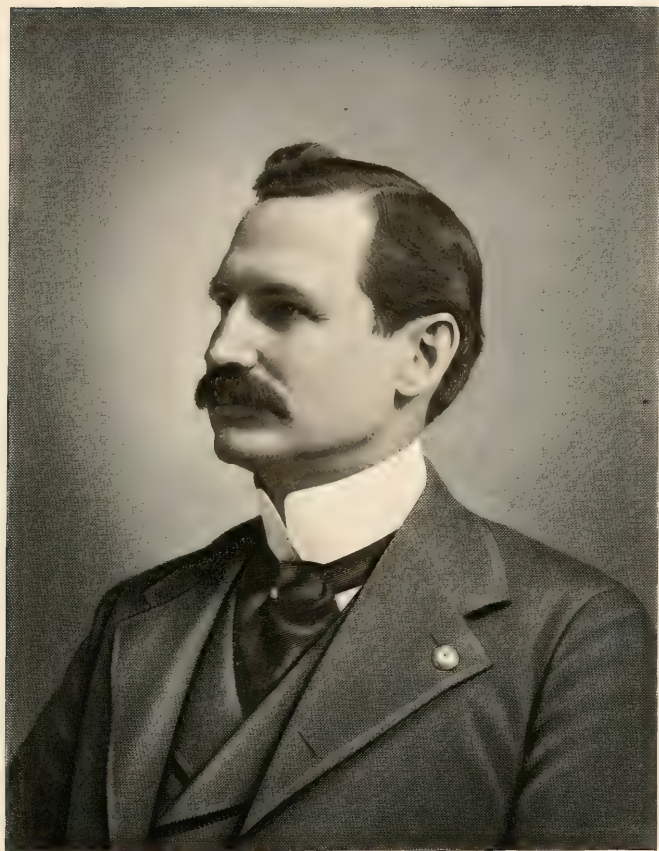
In politics, Mr. Lange is aligned with the Republican party. He is affiliated with the Lutheran church and a liberal supporter of this denomination. He is well read, genial, and is a representative type of the intelligent German-American class who make such valuable additions to the body politic of any community wherever they may locate.

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### THOMAS J. ANDRE, M. D.

The man who devotes his talents and energies to the noble work of ministering to the ill and alleviating the suffering of humanity is pursuing a calling which in dignity, importance and beneficial results is second to no other. If true to his profession and earnest in his efforts to enlarge his sphere of usefulness, he is indeed a benefactor to his kind, for to him more than to any other man are entrusted the safety, the comfort and in many instances the lives of those who place themselves under his care and profit by his services. It is gratifying to note in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work that there remain identified with the professional, public and civic affairs of Sac county, Iowa, many who are ably maintaining the prestige of noble names. Of this number, Dr. Thomas J. Andre, who is prominent among the physicians and surgeons and who is practicing his profession in the city of Schaller, is one of the representative men of the county. He stands in the front rank of Sac county's professional men, having been engaged in his calling here for thirty-two years, during which he has not only gained wide professional notoriety, but also established a sound reputation for uprightness of character in all the relations of life.





*T. J. Andre.*



Dr. T. J. Andre, a popular practicing physician of Schaller, Iowa, was born May 10, 1857, in Columbiana county, Ohio, near the village of Hanover. His parents, John L. and Rachel Ann (Taylor) Andre, were natives of the same county and continued to reside there until 1865, at which time they migrated to Scott county, Iowa, and settled on a farm where they lived for forty-one years. John Andre died March 9, 1911, in New Sharon, Mahaska county, this state, at the advanced age of eighty-four years and six months. His wife died in 1903. John L. Andre and wife were the parents of eight children: W. H., of Estherville, Iowa; Mrs. Mary J. Cook, deceased; Mrs. R. A. Fleck, of Lake City, Iowa; Mrs. Emeline Parker, of Davenport, Iowa; Dr. T. J., with whom this narrative deals; J. Frank, of Davenport, this state; John L., Jr., who died at the age of eight years, and Mrs. Alberta Landstrom, of New Sharon, Iowa.

Dr. Thomas J. Andre was reared on the farm in Scott county, this state, receiving his education in the common schools of his neighborhood. Early in life he decided that he wanted to follow the medical profession and with this end in view he entered Rush Medical College, of Chicago, from which institution he graduated in the spring of 1882. In the fall of the same year he located in Schaller, this county, at a time when that town boasted of three saloons, two drug stores and one blacksmith shop. He has lived through all of the history of the town and has seen it grow from that spirited beginning to its present prosperous condition. While Doctor Andre has been wonderfully successful as a physician he has also been successful as a business man, and for several years he has dealt in Iowa lands, and is now a large land owner in this and other counties of the state.

Doctor Andre was married in 1884 to Cora A. Pettit, of Storm Lake, Iowa, and to this marriage have been born three children: Mrs. Edna R. Reedy, of Amarillo, Texas; Dorothy J., who is at home with her parents, and Thomas J., Jr., who was born February 9, 1906.

The Republican party has claimed the vote of Doctor Andre, but the nature of his profession has prevented him from being an active participant in politics. However, he has served his township as school director for a number of years, in which he has done good service for his community. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is also a member of various medical societies, among which are the Sac County, Iowa State and American Medical Societies. He is also a member of the Western

Surgical and Gynecological Society. Doctor Andre's life has been characterized not only by the high order of his medical ability, but also by that tact and human sympathy which overleaps mere sentiment and is a prominent factor in the life of the successful practitioner. It is the mixture of smile with medicine which wins the patient's confidence and starts him on the high road to recovery. This genial manner is characteristic of Doctor Andre and is one of the reasons for his pronounced success in this locality.

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### LEONARD L. GOREHAM.

It is not improper to judge of the success and status of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his fellow citizens. They have the opportunity of seeing him in his home, about his business, in his church, they hear his views on public questions, observe the workings of his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of life, both private and public, and thus they become competent to judge of his true worth. L. L. Goreham, who has spent practically his entire life in this community, is one of the most respected of the citizens of Wheeler township, and therefore it is safe to conclude that his conduct in all the various affairs of life throughout the years has been actuated by the highest motives only.

Leonard L. Goreham was born in Clinton county, Iowa, in August of 1870, being the son of J. P. and Charlotte Goreham, among the oldest settlers of Wheeler township, Sac county, and elsewhere in this volume will be found a sketch of the career of J. P. Goreham. Leonard L. Goreham was but four years old when the parents came to this county and has never lived elsewhere than on the homestead where his father established a typical pioneer home so many years ago. Since the time when he was first brought to this county great and wonderful improvements have been made along all lines, this locality at that time not having been occupied by the white man very long. The nearest postoffice to the Goreham home was at Vail, many miles distant, and between the farm and the town of Sac City there was not a house or tree visible. Mr. Goreham recalls that the favorite Sunday pastime of his boyhood was the hunting of prairie chickens, of which they would sometimes gather scores. When a youth, he attended the district schools of their vicinity and assisted the father in the work about the home, thus acquiring information which has been of incalculable value in later years. In 1900 he received forty acres of land, including the

homestead, from his father and there he has since made his home. He owns but the forty acres, but farms three hundred and twenty acres. In addition to his substantial home there are many other excellent buildings about the farm. There is a barn in size sixty-four by one hundred and two feet, and containing every convenience for the care of stock, etc. There is also an excellent granary, thirty-four by fifty feet, having a capacity of sixty-five hundred bushels of corn and eight thousand bushels of smaller grain. In addition to carrying on the regular work of the farm as relates to crops, etc., Mr. Goreham has more than local fame as a breeder of Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle. He has eighteen head of thoroughbred Percherons and at the Sac county horse show in January of 1914, at Odebolt, he was awarded the second prize. Expert Kennedy pronounced the Goreham exhibit at the show held in Odebolt as worthy of exhibition anywhere, being a first grade exhibit. In addition to the thought and labor expended on his horses, he also has about fifty head of Shorthorn cattle, good pure-bred stock. The strain he has is of large size and therefore excellent beef producers. In conducting the business of his farm, Mr. Goreham employs only the latest and most approved methods of handling such business and is an earnest student along the lines in which he is most interested.

Mr. Goreham's political affiliation is with the Republican party and in the affairs of this party he takes more than a nominal interest. He has served Wheeler township as clerk and also school director, for twenty years being a member of the school board, serving as secretary and treasurer part of the time. In addition to the duties devolving upon him by reason of political connections, Mr. Goreham for two years has served as secretary of the Sac County Mutual Telephone Company and is also one of the directors of the Sac County Farmers' Institute. By reason of his connection with the breeding of Percheron horses, he has become a member of the Percheron Society of America. He is a director of the Wixel Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of hay loaders at Marcus, Iowa. Mr. Goreham is a communicant of Saint Martin's Roman Catholic church of Odebolt and his fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of Columbus at Carroll in Carroll county.

On September 18, 1894, Mr. Gorham was united in marriage with Sophronia Brennan, a native of Sac county and the daughter of Michael and Julia (Delaney) Brennan. Mrs. Goreham's mother was a native of Wisconsin, and was of Irish descent. Her father, Michael Brennan, a native of Pennsylvania, was a son of Michael, who was a native of Ireland, and now makes his home with her. He was born on May 2, 1841, and is,

therefore, in his seventy-third year. The Brennan family came to Sac county in 1892 from their former home in Wisconsin, and took up their residence in Wheeler township. There were originally seven children in the family, four of whom are now living. Those other than Mrs. Goreham are Mary, wife of T. D. Hansen, residing in Manning, Iowa; William, who lives in Omaha, and John, who makes his home with the subject of this sketch. In the Goreham family there are three children, namely: Clarence L., born in May, 1897; Irene, born in January, 1900, and Laura, who was born in November, 1901.

Mr. Goreham has demonstrated in an unmistakable manner his eminent ability and efficiency in the discharge of both his private business and public duties and has won for himself from those who know him an enviable reputation as a man of strict integrity and one who has the courage of his convictions. He has, by his indomitable enterprise and progressive methods, contributed in a material way to the advancement of his locality and has in all the relations of life given evidence only of principles that were the highest and best.

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### SOLOMON PETERSON.

The history of Solomon Peterson is interesting because it shows what can be accomplished by a man who has the determination and persistence to follow any given task to its completion. His history begins in far-away Sweden, where he was born November 16, 1842, the son of Peter Johnson and Eva Ellen Peterson. In that country he was reared and received a good common school education. Sweden was one of the first countries of Europe to pass compulsory education laws and the percentage of illiteracy is lower in that country than in any country in the world. He lived the life of the ordinary Swedish boy until he reached his majority and then, hearing of the fortunes that were made in this New World, he began to consider seriously the question of coming here and finding out the truth for himself. He saved what little money he could get hold of and in the summer of 1864 there were four hundred men from his native country who decided to cast their fortunes with this new land of ours and of this four hundred, Solomon Peterson, aged twenty-two, was one. He barely had enough money to pay his passage, and when he landed at Quebec in Canada on August 16, 1864, he had twenty-five cents in his pocket. The story of his life which follows now, with this twenty-five cents as a basis,

is one of the most interesting ones to be read in this volume. With this small sum of money he was able to buy enough food to last him from Quebec to the Lake Superior mine, where he worked one year, but mining was not to his liking and in 1865 he went to Chicago where he worked at everything he could find for two months. In the fall of 1865 he went to Indiana and chopped wood and cut timber in the winter time for a farmer, all the time saving his money. In the winter of 1865 he joined his cousin in Henry county, Illinois, and worked there during the summer of 1866; he then went to Colorado and worked in the gold and silver mines in that state for four years. The year 1870 found him in Iowa, where he joined his brother in working in the coal mines in this state. He worked for a year in Logan & Canfield's mine and one year in the Mongona coal mines in Boone county. At this point in the history of Mr. Peterson's career, a new chapter should be introduced.

When Solomon Peterson left his native country, in 1864, he left behind a pretty little fourteen-year-old girl by the name of Margaret Peterson. When she arrived in Iowa on June 6, 1870, it can truly be said that a new chapter in the history of Solomon Peterson began. They were married and began farming on a farm in Boone county, although he still worked in the mines in the winter. In 1873 Mr. Peterson made a trip to Sac county in order to investigate the prospect of settling in this county. Finally he purchased eighty acres of land in Wheeler township, for which he paid five dollars and a half an acre. The next spring he brought his family and built the third house in Wheeler township, a very small and very crude structure, twelve by sixteen feet, and now follows two years when there was a time it seemed that they would have to leave the township. One year the grasshoppers ate his crops and the next year the rain washed it off, and what little wheat he had to sell brought him only ten to thirty-five cents a bushel, and then he had to haul it seventeen miles to market. There were months at a time when he did not have the price of a postage stamp. But he never gave up. He knew what it was to fight against all sorts of adverse circumstances. He stuck to his farm and within five years he had his eighty acres paid for and enough money ahead to purchase forty acres adjoining his farm. He secured this for seven dollars and seventy-five cents an acre and within a few years bought another forty, for which he had to pay twenty-five dollars an acre. In 1890 he added another forty acres, but by this time the land had risen to ninety dollars an acre. Today he owns two hundred acres of land in Wheeler township in sections 27, 28 and 33, and can look the whole world in the face, for he owes not any man.



It must not be thought that Mr. Peterson was devoting all of his time and energy to the accumulation of wealth. It is no exaggeration to say that he has done more for the early history, and later as well, of this township than any other man. He has the honor of making the first wagon track from the southern part of this township to Sac City and this wagon track which he made was used as a high road for a number of years. The second time he made a trip to Sac City was when as a constable he took a cattle thief to jail, and was nearly drowned while crossing Indian creek on the road over. Probably the thing that has redounded to the greatest credit of Mr. Peterson is the work which he did in securing the first public schools in Wheeler township. He is a man of education himself, and wished to see his children and his neighbor's children receive the advantages of an education. Accordingly one winter he drove from one neighbor to another urging and insisting that they get together and force the authorities to provide school advantages in their township. It is needless to say that with such a man behind the move, it was successful. It is also interesting to note that this man, who has done so much for the township, is not a partisan in politics and characterizes himself as an independent. His fellow citizens have elected him as township trustee and for twenty-five years he has been the director and treasurer of the insurance company of his county. In every enterprise he has been foremost and in everything he has become interested in he has thrown all of his might and energy towards making it a success. For over forty years he has been a Freemason.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have reared a family of nine children to lives of usefulness: Mary, the wife of Dr. C. A. Dails, of Sioux City; C. W., a yacht builder and an accomplished navigator now in New York City; Christina, the wife of John Sideris, of South Dakota, who has two children, Roy and Ruby; Alvin G., of Meadow, South Dakota; Ellen P., a nurse in Sioux City; Minnie, who has homesteaded a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract in South Dakota; Seth, who is on the home farm with his father; Edward, of Chicago, Illinois, and Nina, who married Ed Moleen.

Too much credit can not be given Solomon Peterson for the work which he has done in behalf of his own township. As the oldest living pioneer of the township, he has seen it grow from a primitive prairie to one of the prosperous farming regions of the state; he has seen its prairies turned into fields of waving grain, its swamps into fertile fields and its wagon trails into well-graded highways. Now, in the evening of his life, he can look back over a career which has been well spent in the service of his fellow men, a career which brings credit to himself, honor to his children and gratification to the community in which he has lived.

## CHARLES C. COY.

The subject of this review has had much to do in advancing the material interests of Odebolt, Iowa, and making it one of the important commercial centers of this section of the state. The study of such a life can not fail of interest and incentive, for he has been not only distinctively representative in his spheres of endeavor, but has established a reputation for integrity and honor. Though not now actively identified with business pursuits, he is still numbered among the substantial and worthy citizens of his community and none more than he deserves representation in a work of the character of the one in hand.

Charles C. Coy, a retired banker and business man of Odebolt, Iowa, was born October 20, 1866, in Kaneville, Kane county, Illinois. His parents were B. A. and Delette (Crandall) Coy, he a native of Connecticut. B. A. Coy was born in 1825 and died January 30, 1910. He was a son of John Coy, descendant of an old New England family. John Coy left his native state and moved to New York state, and in a few years moved to Kane county, Illinois, where B. A. Coy was reared and married. Delette Crandall was born in 1832 in New York, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Crandall, and died in December, 1912. She was descended from the Livermore family, who came from England to Boston in 1737. Her father moved from New York state to Marietta, Ohio, where he died. Some years after the marriage of B. A. Coy, he moved from Kane county, Illinois, to DeKalb county, in the same state, where they made their home until 1876, at which time they went to Sac county, Iowa, where they bought a large tract of land in Cook township, owning at one time over two thousand acres in this township. When the town of Odebolt was laid out they moved to this town and assisted in building it up. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Coy: Dell, deceased; John, deceased; Nat, who resides in Florida; Mrs. Deborah Prichard, deceased, and Charles C., with whom this narrative deals.

Charles C. Coy was educated in the public schools of Illinois and Iowa, and later took a course in Wooster University at Wooster, Ohio. In 1881 he came with his parents to Odebolt, and was employed for six years in the State Bank of Odebolt, of which institution his father was one of the founders and vice-president for many years. Since 1887 he has looked after his extensive farming interests, which consists of one thousand and eighty acres of land in Cook township, four hundred and eighty acres of which he is operating himself.

Mr. Coy was married in 1890 to Ida Carter, a daughter of Louis and Rachel (Wheeler) Carter. Mrs. Coy was born in Pontiac, Illinois, and came with her parents to Iowa in 1877, and lived in Buena Vista county, near Storm Lake, until 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Carter then moved to Odebolt, where they spent the remainder of their days. Mr. and Mrs. Coy are the parents of three children: Dell, who married Grace Fisher, and is now living on his father's farm; Rachel, a student of Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, and Walter, of Tipton, Iowa.

Mr. Coy has always allied himself with the Democratic party and is interested in the success of his party, but has never been an active partisan. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and takes a live interest in the affairs of his fraternal organization. He is a man of kindly disposition, pleasant to every one, honest and thoroughly trustworthy. He is admired by all who know him for his uprightness and business integrity.

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#### JOHN H. DENMAN.

All men are not gifted alike. Through the mysterious ways of an unseen power, individuals, while they are alike given similar opportunities, naturally work out their destinies by diverse methods which yield different results. When the whole is computed, however, and the totals weighed, it will be found that in all countries the most gifted and those who are peculiarly endowed with foresight, which becomes more fully developed, are the persons whose enterprises are the most profitable. These things the biographer does not pretend to thoroughly explain. We can only decide that he who accomplishes extraordinary things is, and must be, deserving, otherwise an all-seeing Providence would withhold from him and his their rightful heritage. The reasonably large fortunes of the West have been created from the cultivation of the soil and by the exercise of a talent for determining land values and having a sincere and abiding faith in the inevitable, prosperous future of a great and growing country. There are many men in Sac county who have achieved wonderful and gratifying success through the exercise of native talents, a keen financial ability, and confidence in the certainty that land values would climb continuously on account of the wonderful richness of the soil and the constantly growing land hunger of the masses. One of the most substantial and representative citizens of the foregoing class in Sac City is John H. Denman,





a native of the grand old Buckeye state, and who began with limited advantages and has risen to a place of prestige among the landed agriculturists of western Iowa through his own efforts solely. He possesses abiding faith in the wealth of the soil and its ability to retain its productiveness and the certainty of its continuous rise in value.

J. H. Denman was born in Licking county, Ohio, August 30, 1846. He is the son of Matthias Denman and Elizabeth (Smith) Denman, who were alike born and reared in the Buckeye state. Matthias was the son of Hathaway Denman, a native of the state of New Jersey, and whose ancestors came from England. In the fall of 1852 the Denman family migrated to McLean county, Illinois, and there settled on a farm. Matthias died here, in the month of May, 1901, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. His wife had preceded him to the great beyond a few months before, dying in February, 1901, at the age of seventy-eight years. They were the parents of thirteen children, three of whom died in infancy: Martha, deceased in 1871; Lizzie, deceased in 1871; Charles, who died in 1899; Belle, deceased in 1900; Thomas, a resident of Boswell, Indiana; Mrs. Emma Gillstrap, of Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Sarah J. Long, of Carlock, Illinois; Daniel E., a citizen of Normal, Illinois; and John H.

The citizen to whom this chronicle is devoted had the advantages of but a limited education in his youth. The family resided a considerable distance from a school and he was permitted to attend this very ordinary temple of learning for but four months in the winter seasons. Consequently, he is one of the great army of self-educated men who are counted among the successful men of many communities. He journeyed from Illinois to Marshall county, Iowa, in the spring of 1875, beginning his journey to the new land of promise April 11, 1875. He followed agriculture in Marshall county until February 22, 1880, when he decided that Sac county offered a better field for his operations. His first purchase of land in Sac county was one hundred and sixty acres, in Cook township, which he purchased for thirteen dollars an acre. He resided on this farm for two years and then removed to Ida county where he bought one hundred and twenty acres and again sold it in 1884. Returning to Sac county he invested in two hundred acres of excellent land at a cost of twenty-five dollars an acre, in section 6, Cook township. On this piece of land he made his home and resided thereon until his removal to Sac City. Prosperity apparently smiled upon him and rewarded his industry, for in 1888 he added eighty acres, in section 6, of Cook township, at a cost of thirty dollars an acre. In 1890 he added seventy acres more to his hold-

ings, in the same section, at a purchase price of thirty-three dollars an acre. Later he bought one hundred and seven acres of land in Jackson township which he traded for a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres located a few miles northwest of Sac City, one hundred and sixteen acres of which is in Delaware township and sixty-four acres in Jackson township. Mr. Denman is the owner of six hundred and sixteen acres of land valued as follows: Four hundred and twenty-six acres in Cook township, marketable at two hundred dollars an acre, and the balance is easily worth one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

Mr. Denman moved to Sac City, February 22, 1904, and purchased a home in the choice residential section of the city, remodeling and modernizing the same into a comfortable and handsome place of abode. In politics, Mr. Denman is a Demcorat of the old school and is one of the "wheel horses" of the party in Sac county. While the party has been in the minority since time immemorial in the county, Mr. Denman's allegiance to the principles of Jefferson Democracy has been shown by his candidacy on the Democratic ticket for county offices at various times. He prides himself on his thorough Democracy. His family are members of the Presbyterian church. He is affiliated with no fraternal societies and prefers his home life to the diversions of club or societies. He and the members of his family usually spend the winters in Florida. He is connected with the State Bank of Schaller, Iowa, in an official capacity. His marriage with Mary Ellis, of DeWitt county, Illinois, and daughter of Abner Ellis, took place February 6, 1877. They have five children: Mrs. Bessie Griffin, of Florida; Roy, a farmer in Delaware township; Nannie, librarian of the Sac City public library; Matthias, a farmer in Cook township; Mary, a teacher, residing in South Dakota.

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#### FRED WINKLER.

One of Sac county's many German citizens who have made a success in their adopted country is Fred Winkler, a prosperous farmer of Jackson township and proprietor of three hundred and twenty-six acres of fine farming land. He is one of the pioneers of the county and has the unique satisfaction of knowing that the first plow which was ever put in his farm by white men was guided through the tough soil by his own hand. He can sit in the shade of trees which are now ten feet in circumference and feel the joy of knowing that he planted those trees with his own hands



more than forty years ago. He has fairly grown up with the county and for this reason has a sort of paternal feeling and affection which is common to all pioneers of any country.

Fred Winkler was born in Germany in 1844, the son of Christ and Christina Winkler. In 1856 he came to this country with his parents and settled in Racine county, Wisconsin.

Among the hills of Racine county, Wisconsin, Fred Winkler grew to manhood. He had already received the rudiments of an education in Germany and was given but little schooling after reaching this country. He married in 1869 and then, wishing to better himself, he and his young wife decided to move to Sac county, having heard that it was a fertile country and one which was bound to become prosperous. The year 1870 found them with eighty acres in Jackson township, for which they paid six dollars and twenty-five cents an acre. The hand of man had never been turned on this eighty acres, no buildings had ever been erected, and this barren tract of eighty acres must have seemed a dreary prospect to this young couple, but they were not to be discouraged and in the course of a few years they not only had the eighty acres under a good cultivation, but had trees planted, buildings erected, the fields drained and were able to purchase one hundred and twenty acres adjoining them. In 1883 they purchased one hundred and twenty acres for ten dollars an acre, and now this land is worth twenty times as much as they paid for it in 1883. It is needless to say that Fred Winkler and his wife have been hard workers, that they have been thrifty and economical. He has now reached a position in life where they can take things easy and spend the remainder of their days surrounded with every convenience and luxury.

Fred Winkler was married in 1868 in Racine county, Wisconsin, to Mary Reil and to this union have been born three children: Albert F., who was born in 1869 in Wisconsin and married in 1898 to Bertha Bell, of Brooklyn, Wisconsin; he owns one hundred and twenty acres of good land and also operates his father's farm. He is a Mason, a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and at the present time he is president of the Jackson township school board. Albert F. and wife have one son, Drexel. Eliza, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Winkler, is deceased, while Katie, the youngest child, is now at Storm Lake, Iowa.

Politically, Mr. Winkler is a Democrat, but has never had the time to engage in the game of politics. His wife died in 1893 and since then he has made his home with his son, Albert F., on the old home farm. Mr. Winkler has many admirable qualities of head and heart and the high regard

in which he is held by his fellow citizens indicates that he has led a most exemplary life in this community. He can record many interesting stories of the early days in this country and often compares the conditions under which he started to housekeeping in 1870 with the conditions at the present. His life has been a busy one and yet he has taken his part in all the affairs of the community which he thought might better the welfare of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Winkler enlisted, in the fall of 1861, in the Ninth Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry, and served until his honorable discharge in the spring of 1866. He was captured and held as a prisoner for six weeks while in the state of Arkansas.

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#### HIRAM B. SMITH.

When a good man goes to his reward and departs this life, the community mourns, his family grieves and the niche which he occupied for years remains unfilled. A distinct personality is sadly missed and his place difficult to fill. There is consolation, however, in the fact that the loved one has been a good and useful citizen and a kind provider for his family. The demise of a pioneer settler of Sac county in the person of Hiram B. Smith on February 1, 1914, was deeply felt by a host of friends and acquaintances, and a long and useful life came to a peaceful end.

Hiram B. Smith was born December 7, 1846, on a farm near Waukegan, Illinois, and was the son of J. Z. and Ruth (Scott) Smith, natives of Dutchess county, New York, and who were of Holland descent. His mother was a native of Genesee county, New York. Hiram B.'s father left his native state and settled in Ohio. Later he moved further West to Illinois and again came back to Ohio. In the year 1851 he made the long overland trip to the gold fields of California, and returned home, dying on his farm in Wood county, Ohio. Hiram B. enlisted in the Sixtieth Ohio Regiment of Sharpshooters, which was an independent organization. This regiment was known as the new Sixtieth to distinguish it from the old Sixtieth Regiment, which had been decimated by the ravages of war. Mr. Smith's enlistment in the Union army took place in February of 1864 and he served until April of 1865. When he was distant from home eleven days he caught his first glimpse of a real battle, and had the opportunity of viewing the great battle of the Wilderness, while his regiment was held in reserve because of the fact that the new soldiers were all young, raw and

untrained troops. Instead of being ordered to the front in this engagement, they were marched away. He later took part in a great many engagements and skirmishes, and his regiment was kept constantly on the move, going from place to place where expert riflemen were needed on the outposts and in the forefront of the firing line. While the sharpshooters were stationed before Richmond he was severely wounded in June of 1864 and sent to the Federal hospital at Indianapolis, where he recovered. On August 17, he received a wound which disabled him for life and he was sent home and honorably retired from the service on account of permanent disability.

Returning home to Wood county, Ohio, Mr. Smith was married, in December, 1870, to Jennie Marsh at her home in New York state. She is the daughter of Nelson and Amanda (Barker) Marsh, both natives of New York. After marriage the newly wedded couple settled on a farm in Wood county, where they resided until February of 1880, when they journeyed westward and located in Wheeler township, Sac county, Iowa. Mr. Smith had previously, in the year 1876, made the journey to Sac county and bought three hundred and twenty acres of prairie land in west Wheeler township. Not a furrow had been turned on this land and no houses were in sight. On his first visit to the land he had set out a number of trees, which at this day have grown to be monarchs in size and whose welcome shade is much appreciated. They brought with them a small house ready to put up, which was succeeded, fourteen years later, in the year 1893, by a comfortable mansion, modern in many respects and which is to this day one of the finest farm residences in Wheeler township.

No children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, but they have reared four, two nephews and two nieces, namely: Burt, somewhere in the West; Maury, of South Dakota; Ada Smith, of Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. Lenore Marvin, residing at the Smith home and whose husband assists in tilling the farm. The Smith home is a cultured and refined one and evidences of education and marked skill along certain lines are seen on every hand. Mrs. Smith has what is probably the only museum of the kind in Sac county. An entire room of the large residence is set apart for the housing of relics and stuffed animals and birds, both Mr. and Mrs. Smith being skilled taxidermists, and spent considerable time in creating works of art and preparing animal and bird exhibits in life-like positions. During the latter years of Mr. Smith's life his health was poor and his work was necessarily confined to light and agreeable labor, which called for definite skill, and the evidence of his handiwork is seen in many fine creations. Owing to the condition of his health it was necessary for him, accompanied by his wife, to spend his

winters during later years at Port Orange, Florida, and it was here that his demise occurred on February 1, 1914. Mr. Smith was a member of Colonel Goodrich Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and belonged to no other lodges or fraternal societies. He was essentially a home man, who took a great pride in his handsome residence and the beautiful grounds surrounding it and was continually improving the appearance of the farm. He was a Republican in politics and a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and General Grant of Civil War fame. He was a kindly disposed gentleman who was at peace with his neighbors and whose friends were legion.

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### PETER G. LUNDELL.

The biographer finds it an easy task to describe a man who has led an eminently active and busy life, and who has attained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. In the tracing of such a career, biography finds its most perfect justification and it is with a full appreciation of all that is demanded, and also with a feeling of satisfaction, that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon the details of such a record as has been that of the respected subject of this sketch. At one time a stranger in a strange land, unacquainted with its customs in every particular. Mr. Lundell possessed that inherent ability which has enabled him to overcome all handicaps and has elevated him to a place of prominence and influence in his chosen locality.

Peter G. Lundell was born on May 14, 1859, in Sweden, the son of Andrew and Anna Lundell, who, with their family, emigrated to America in 1869, arriving at the port of New York in December of that year. They remained with friends in that city until the New Year, when they came westward into Illinois, locating near Princeton, where they resided on a farm and proceeded to carry on farming. There the family remained and prospered until 1878, when they again came westward, this time locating in Sac county, Iowa, settling on the land where the subject of this sketch now lives, which was railroad land when they purchased it. There the family lived for several years, Andrew the father dying on February 1, 1896, and the mother passing into the great beyond in February of 1900. Two daughters were ill in New York harbor as the family were waiting for admittance to the country; one died in the harbor and the other in Princeton, Illinois, and at the death of the parents there were four children remaining, being

August, of Wheeler township, John and Anna (Mrs. Lindskoog), in addition to the immediate subject of this sketch, who succeeded to the homestead and has always resided there. In later years he has made many additions and improvements, greatly adding to the value of the place. This homestead consists of one hundred and eighty acres of excellent land and is known as the Pine Lane farm, deriving its name from the long lane of pine trees which leads from the public highway to the farm residence, situated some distance back in the tract. The house sets on a hill and is surrounded by a grove of pines and spruces and is in every way an ideal home, combining beauty and convenience.

Mr. Lundell received his elementary education in the district schools of Illinois, where the family first resided upon coming to America, and this was supplemented in later years by much earnest study on his part. For a number of years he taught schools in Wheeler township during the winter season and engaged in farming in the spring and summer. He is looked upon as one of the leading men of his nationality in the community and is a man of marked characteristics which readily place him in the forefront of those desiring the best and most lasting good to the community. In politics, Mr. Lundell is a Republican of marked progressive ideas and has ever exerted a worthy influence in local politics. He has served Wheeler township both as trustee and clerk and at the present time is secretary of the township school board. He was recently elected secretary of the Kiron Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, of which his brother August is president. This company does business in Crawford, Sac, Ida, Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Shelby and Carroll counties, this state. Mr. Lundell renders these public services in addition to capably managing the business of his farm and throughout the years has won for himself such an enviable reputation as a man of faultless integrity and excellent judgment, that much more is demanded of him in this line than his own affairs warrant him in assuming.

Mr. Lundell chose as his wife Amanda Berg, daughter of Carl and Caroline Berg, natives of Sweden who had settled in Wheeler township, and their marriage was solemnized on March 11, 1882. Mrs. Lundell was born in Sweden on November 10, 1865, and was a child of four years when her parents emigrated to this country. To Mr. and Mrs. Lundell have been born twelve children, namely: Mabel Delphine, wife of E. N. Sandstrom; Edna Rosene, a stenographer in the city of Des Moines; Abbie Dorothea, a teacher in the public schools; Edith Arline, George Willard, Edward Martin, Elizabeth Elfreda, Edmund Gustavus, Mildred Evangeline, Harold Tennyson,

Constance Muriel and Bayard Royal, all of whom are at home, while Edward Martin has attended an automobile school at Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Lundell holds his religious affiliations with the Swedish Lutheran church and in the tenets of that faith he is carefully rearing his family.

Mr. Lundell is one of those solid men of brain and substance so essential to the best growth and prosperity of a community and stands before the younger generation as an example of a self-made man who has attained to worldly success and the unqualified respect of all who know him by the operation of correct principles of life coupled with indomitable will and the determination to succeed. He has always been especially desirous of extending a beneficial influence over the youth with whom he came in contact and is most conscientious and painstaking in the rearing of his own family. In every relation of life he has proven himself every inch a man and adds another name to the already long list of honorable and high-minded American citizens of Swedish origin.

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#### ROBERT MCKEE LONG.

The farmer of today is radically different from the farmer of yesterday. To use a well-known phrase which aptly fits the case, "the American farmer has come into his own". The whole world of necessity bows to the farmer, figuratively speaking. His productive land is the basis of values and the source of the greatest wealth. It is he who feeds the multitudes of people who exist in the cities and towns which have multiplied in this broad land of ours during past decades. He is at present the most prosperous and among the most enterprising of our citizenship. Where formerly he seemed a nonentity to the masses of the people, today he is universally respected and envied in his possession of a fine farm and the comforts of life in abundance. Then, too, although the farmer's life is secluded to a certain extent, he is no longer deprived of the comforts and luxuries of life which formerly belonged solely to the city dweller. In Sac county we find many handsome and modern country homes occupied by well-to-do and progressive agriculturists who endeavor to keep pace with the world's affairs and take an active part in the onward movements of the times. A well-known representative of this enterprising type of farmer is found in the person of Robert McKee Long, of Cedar township.

Mr. Long has a farm of three hundred and sixty acres, two hundred



ROBERT MCKEE LONG





acres of which lie in section 9, and one hundred and sixty acres is located in section 16 of Cedar township. He has a large commercial orchard, covering seven acres of ground, and which has yielded five hundred dollars worth of fruit in a single year.

He was formerly engaged in cattle raising and kept from eighty to one hundred and twenty-five head on the place. His son, Robert M., is now actively engaged in cultivating the land and has charge of the farming operations. In 1912 Mr. Long completed a fine, modern residence of ten rooms fitted with all conveniences, with the necessary adjunct of large, commodious barns. This home is situated on a commanding site above the stream which flows through his land and is surrounded by great forest trees. It was erected at a cost of over two thousand six hundred dollars, but the home and building cost to exceed five thousand dollars.

This cultivated and enterprising gentleman was born October 6, 1853, in Cedar county, Iowa, the son of Robert M. Long, whose wife was Mary M. Lyle, both of whom were natives of the Southland. Robert M., the father, was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1818, and was the son of Samuel and Isabella (McKee) Long. He died in 1863. Mary M. Lyle was born in 1824 and died in 1876. They were united in marriage in 1844. The Lyles are natives of Virginia. Mary M. Lyle was the daughter of William Reid Lyle, of Virginia, who was the son of John Lyle. The father of John Lyle was also named John and was the son of James Lyle, a native of Lorne, in county Antrim, Ireland. It is recorded that the Lyles emigrated to Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1740 or thereabouts. There were three brothers who were pioneers in the settlement of the town of Timber Ridge, Rockbridge county.

Robert McKee, the first, was the son of Samuel and Isabella (McKee) Long. His father was of German descent on his father's side and Scotch-Irish on his mother's side. Isabella McKee was the daughter of Robert McKee, a native of county Down, Ireland, who traveled to the Isle of Man and there married Mary Downey. He was born December 15, 1760, and was married in 1788 and settled at Hagerstown, Maryland.

Robert McKee Long, the first, with whom the biographer is in part concerned, was born February 22, 1818, near Hagerstown, Maryland, and later settled in Tipton, Iowa, where he was a well-known merchant. He died in 1863, on the eve of his acceptance of a colonel's commission in the Union army. His children were: Alfred R., a resident of Tipton, Iowa; Edwin G., a citizen of Omaha; Flora E. Porter, who lives in Tipton; Robert M.,

of Sac county; Mrs. Mary L. Moreland, of Blainstown, Iowa; Mrs. Ida Belle Shinn, living also in Blainstown; William L., of Tipton, Iowa.

Robert McKee, the second, to whom this review is directly devoted, received his primary education in the Tipton high school and pursued his classical course in Cornell College. He taught eighteen terms of school in Cedar county and made his own way in life from the time he was ten years old. He resided in various towns for a period of thirty years and followed divers occupations in order to obtain a livelihood, while always looking ahead for something better. He worked for the Illinois Central Railroad Company as brakeman; drove the stage from Tipton to Davenport and also from Tipton to Stanwood. He is self educated, working his way through school and college and paying his own expenses. In 1883 he turned his attention to farming in Johnson county, Iowa, where he and his brother operated a farm in partnership for three years. This farm embraced a total of nine hundred and thirty-six acres and required considerable labor and attention to successfully operate. He then went to Benton county and farmed for sixteen years as a tenant farmer, in the meantime saving his money so as to make a final and lasting investment in land for himself. In 1900 he came to Sac county and purchased his Cedar township farm of three hundred and sixty acres, at a total cost of fourteen thousand five hundred dollars. He has since refused offers of twenty-six thousand four hundred dollars for one hundred and sixty acres of this fine piece of land and it is easily worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. He removed his family to Sac county in 1900 and has since taken a prominent and influential part in township and county affairs.

Mr. Long is a pronounced Progressive in his politics and is chairman of the Progressive organization in Cedar township. During his residence of fourteen years in the community he has held all township offices and has several times refused to become a candidate for county office, although he has generally taken an active part in county affairs and has wielded his large influence in behalf of better government. For three years past he has been president of the Sac County Mutual Insurance Company. He has served for a period of seven years as secretary of the Cedar township school board. He is affiliated with the Methodist church and is fraternally connected with the Modern Woodmen, Modern Brotherhood of America, the Mystic Toilers and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Long's wedded life began in 1883 when his marriage with Minnow Melvina Weston, of Norway, Iowa, was solemnized. His wife was born in Norway, Iowa, in 1864 and is the daughter of John H. and Ellen (Mumme)

Weston. They are the parents of the following children, eleven in number: Bessie Ellen, born 1884 and is the wife of Louis M. Dawes, of Sac City; Mrs. Maud Brobeil, of Cedar township and who was born in 1886; Robert McKee Long, the third, born in 1888, farmer, married Martha Alice Rhoads; Edwin Garfield, born May 29, 1890, and was married November 1, 1911, to Elsie Pearl Witt, daughter of William Witt; Frank Otis, born 1892 and married in October of 1913, to Lola Cress and resides in Lavinia, Iowa; Ralph Henry, born in 1894 and resides at home; Glenn Herbert, born 1896; Ada Pearl, born in 1898; Charles Alfred, whose birth occurred in 1900; Mary Belle, who was born in 1902; Edith Emily, born in 1904.

This brief resume of the life of Robert McKee Long is presented herein with the conviction that it will be esteemed as a memoir of great value by his children, descendants and friends. It is an epitome of the life of a self-made man who has not only achieved a comfortable competence solely through his own efforts but has the enviable distinction of having reared a large and interesting family of children who are being brought up in the surroundings of a Christian and cultured home. It is an epitome of a self-made man of gentle birth and who is proud of his Germanic and Scotch-Irish ancestry. Having the advantages of gentle birth and the inspiration of a long line of sturdy ancestors to inspire his efforts, he has become a citizen of wide influence in his adopted county. From newsboy and bootblack to being the owner of a valuable Sac county farm, the father of a large and interesting family, and to being a leader among his fellow citizens, along the paths of good government, is a long step forward and credit sufficient. It is the records of the lives of such men as Mr. Long that make interesting reading and furnish inspiration to the readers of this valuable volume.

Mr. Long has never been an office seeker, though time after time he has been solicited to become a candidate for various offices. At the earnest solicitation of the leaders of the Progressive party and yielding to the importunities of his many friends throughout Sac county, he became the candidate of the party for the important office of representative to the state Legislature, in the spring of 1914. His strength as a candidate is indisputable and recognized by the great agricultural class of his home county. His ability as a public speaker of note is attracting wide attention for the clearness of his logic and the force of his arguments as coming from a man of sound and honest convictions. His many friends view his candidacy with optimistic predictions and he is receiving firm support which will enable him to make a strong race for the position which will land him in the halls of the state Legislature if successful at the November election.

## MARION MOCK.

One of the substantial and enterprising citizens of Sac City and one who has achieved marked success, first as an agriculturist and then as a miller, is Marion Mock, proprietor of the grist and flour mill operating in the west part of the city. This mill was established in 1897 and was purchased by Mr. Mock in 1908. The mill has an output and a capacity of five hundred bushels of grain daily. It is fitted with two grinders and one assistant is employed to operate the machinery.

Mr. Mock was born May 28, 1860, in Polk county, Iowa, and was the son of Daniel and Catharine (Hart) Mock, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. Daniel Mock migrated to Iowa as early as 1845 and settled in Polk county when Des Moines consisted of only a fort and a cluster of houses and was a trading station in the wilderness. For some years he teamed from Keokuk to Des Moines, and made the first trip to the new country from Indiana. He purchased a farm about twelve miles north of Des Moines, and became the owner of a quarter section of river bottom land, over which there was considerable litigation for a number of years, but he eventually secured a clear title to the same and then disposed of it. Mr. Mock had a government title to this tract, but it was claimed by the River Land Company and the consequent litigation ensued. After disposing of his first farm, he bought another quarter section, ten miles north of Des Moines, but sold this seven years later and moved to Springfield, Missouri, for awhile. Returning to Iowa, he settled near the state fair grounds, in the vicinity of Des Moines, and died in 1910.

Mr. Mock left Polk county in the spring of 1890 and came to Sac county, locating in Cedar township, where he purchased eighty acres of prairie land at a cost of sixteen dollars an acre. He improved this farm and resided thereon until 1899, and then sold his land for forty dollars an acre. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres at a cost of forty dollars an acre in Jackson township, which he sold three years later for sixty-five dollars an acre. He made his residence in Sac City from this time on and continued investing in land. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres southwest of Sac City for sixty-five dollars an acre, rented it to a tenant, and later sold it for eighty-three dollars an acre. In partnership with a real estate man, he bought two hundred acres of land northwest of Sac City in 1910 at a cost of seventy-five dollars an acre and sold it recently for one hundred and thirty-five dollars an acre. Another recent investment or speculation was in one hundred and sixty acres of land in Clay county,

which cost eighty dollars per acre and was sold for one hundred and ten dollars per acre.

In politics Mr. Mock is a staunch Democrat and is a pronounced admirer of President Wilson and his policies. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, both subordinate lodge and encampment, the Rebekahs and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was married February 9, 1880, to Mary Jane Doke and is the father of three children: Mrs. Nettie Shoemaker, of Los Angeles, California; Alfred, of Montana; Wayne, aged sixteen years, at home.

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### BERTON B. BUIHNER.

Among the many German families who have made Sac county their home, the Buihner family occupies a conspicuous place. It seems to be a national characteristic of the German people to be frugal and saving. The county which is fortunate to attract German emigrants is always sure to advance in material prosperity. Wherever these people settle, they at once begin to make homes for themselves, and, while they are interested in their own advancement, they never neglect to take their full share of the burden of citizenship.

The first member of the Buihner family to come to America was John Buihner, who was born in Wittenberg, Germany, March 30, 1824, and died in Wall Lake, Sac county, Iowa, September 19, 1903. He was reared and married in Germany. His wife, Ursula Jennewine, was born in Wittenberg, May 10, 1822, and died at Garwin, Iowa, March 6, 1901. They came to America in 1854 and settled at Oswego, Illinois, where they lived until 1868, when they moved to Tama county, Iowa, and in 1891 moved to Garwin, this state, where the wife and mother died. They were the parents of seven children: Mrs. Annie Sherwood, of Sioux, Nebraska; John, Jr., the father of Bert B., whose history is portrayed in this sketch; Mrs. Margaret Long, of Morningside, Sioux City, Iowa; Jacob and George, of Tama county, this state, and Mrs. Eva Conant, deceased.

The second child of John and Ursula Buihner was John Buihner, Jr., who was born March 4, 1852, in Wittenberg, Germany. As has been mentioned above, he came to America with his parents in 1854, and of course came with them again when they made their change to Tama county, Iowa, in 1868. In this county he was married, on December 16, 1875, to Alpha

Yetley, the daughter of Jacob and Catherine Yetley, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Alpha Yetley was born December 27, 1859, in Tama county, her parents being among the early settlers of that county. They came from Pennsylvania and first settled in Freeport, Illinois, and came to Tama county, Iowa, in 1856. The first wife of Jacob Yetley died in 1874, and to this first union were born the following children: Mrs. Mary Hamm, Irwin J., Mrs. Alpha Buihner and Mrs. Lucy Pifer. Jacob Yetley's second marriage was to Mary E. Hamm, and to his second union were born five children, Grant, Charley, Emma, Lottie and Della. To John Buihner, Jr., and wife were born three children: William Gilbert, born October 5, 1877, and died December 4, 1892; Laura May was born March 28, 1879, and died April 24, 1887; Berton Bodene, whose history is the theme of the present narrative. In 1891 John Buihner, Jr., and his family moved to Sac county, where the husband and father died on October 29, 1909. He was a great worker in the Evangelical church and was Sunday school superintendent of the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal church for seven years, and superintendent of another Sunday school for twelve years. He was an active worker in the Epworth League and in all the organizations of the church. For two years he was president of the Clinton Township Sunday School Association.

Berton B. Buihner, the third in direct descent from the first of the family who came to America, was born April 24, 1888, in Marshall county, Iowa, and was educated in the district schools and upon his father's death in 1909 took active charge of his father's farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He is a young man who has a promising future before him. He is greatly interested in church work, as was his father before him. At the present time he is an active member of the Young Men's Literary Society.

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#### CONRAD MEYER.

A man of sterling worth and exemplary character is Conrad Meyer, one of the German citizens of Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa. Before coming to this country he served six years in the German army, and the splendid training and discipline which was acquired during those six years has been no small factor in making him the successful man that he has become since settling in this township. Not only has he been of material benefit to the progress of his county, but in all public enterprises he has taken such a part as ranks him as a loyal citizen of his adopted country.



Conrad Meyer was born July 1, 1840, in Bayern, Kolemabough, Germany. His parents, George and Barbara Meyer, lived all their days in the land of their birth. George Meyer was a farmer in Germany, and when Conrad Meyer was twenty-two years of age he enlisted in the regular German army and served his allotted six years. Upon the expiration of his enlistment he came to America and landed in New York city. Shortly afterward he went to Lee county, Illinois, and worked on a farm in that county for two years. He then married and rented a farm, remaining in Lee county, Illinois, until October, 1873, at which time he came to Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land for five dollars an acre. He only had one hundred dollars to pay down on the land, but, with the thrift which characterizes his countrymen, he went to work with a will and soon had this land paid for. He then bought four hundred acres in section 28, Clinton township, and after making his second purchase of land Mr. Meyer began to deal in real estate throughout the county, and has made considerable money by buying and selling land, always buying his land for cash, and has never lost by any of his numerous transactions. Before he divided his land among his children, he was the owner of ten hundred and twenty-nine acres, as follows: One hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, three hundred and forty-nine acres in Levey township, one hundred and twenty in Wall Lake township and six hundred and forty in Spink county, South Dakota.

Mr. Meyer was married in 1872 to Anna Katrina Engle, who died in 1907, leaving six children: Mrs. Mary Schulte, of Wall Lake township, who has four children, Andrew, George, Susie and Mary; Mrs. Anna Martha Souder, deceased, whose five children, Caroline, Annie, John, George and Mary, were reared by their grandfather; George, a farmer of Clinton township; Mrs. Katharine Kolbe, of Clinton township; John and Henry, farmers of Clinton township.

Mr. Meyer was married the second time on May 22, 1908, to Mrs. Marie (Halling) Pritchard, a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and who was born on July 9, 1853, the daughter of H. P. and Marie Halling. The Halling family came to America in 1865, and first settled in Clinton county, Iowa, where they remained for three years. They then moved to Clarke county, Iowa, and in 1900 came to Sac county. Mr. and Mrs. Halling were the parents of five children: H. P. and John, farmers of Cook township, this county; Cyrus, of Adair county, this state; Mrs. Lena Mollm, who lives in South Dakota, and Mrs. Meyer. Marie Halling was married in 1878 to James Pritchard, who died at Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1907.

Mr. Meyer cast his first vote for James A. Garfield, and has called himself an independent voter since that time, preferring to cast his ballot on election days for the best men, irrespective of their politics. Accordingly, in 1912, he voted for Woodrow Wilson, believing that he was the best man for the presidency. He is a member of the Lutheran church, to which he contributes liberally of his substance. In 1909 Mr. Meyer moved to Odebolt, where he is now living a life of ease and comfort and enjoying the fruits of his long years of hard labor. The life of this typical German emigrant, who came to this county with practically nothing, affords a striking example of the man who makes a comfortable living for his declining years by the sweat of his brow. In no other country in the world can this be accomplished so easily as in the United States, and every state in the Union is glad to welcome such men as Conrad Meyer.

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#### JOSEPH P. GOREHAM.

Forty years of residence in Sac county and living to see the county develop from a vast prairie country into a populous and cultivated garden spot, with beautiful towns and cities rearing their spires heavenward, should be honor and glory enough for one man, but when he and his faithful helpmeet are so blessed as to have been enabled to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in addition, it seems truly that Providence has especially singled out a most worthy couple for great favors. However, Joseph P. and Charlotte Goreham, with whom this resume is concerned, are deserving of all the good fortune and every blessing which has befallen them in a long, happy and useful life.

Joseph P. Goreham was born March 4, 1840, in Stockholm, St. Lawrence county, New York. He is the son of Philo and Maria (Bard) Goreham, natives of Vermont, and who moved to Canada in 1845, and resided there until the spring of 1861. They then moved to Clinton county, Iowa, where the father died in the year 1888. There were nine children in the Goreham family, as follows: Betsey, Warren, Harriet, Miranda, Susannah, Reuben and William, all deceased; Joseph P., and Mrs Mary Wade, of Allen, Nebraska.

In the fall of 1861 Joseph P. Goreham left his Canadian home and came to Clinton county, Iowa, and was there married, January 20, 1864, to Charlotte Hill, who was born May 8, 1844, in Yorkshire, England. She



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH P. GOREHAM



is the daughter of John and Susannah Hill, who emigrated to America in 1851 and first settled at Rockford, Illinois. They reared a family of fourteen children. The Hill family located in Clinton county, Iowa, in 1854, and were substantial pioneer settlers of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Goreham resided on their farm in Clinton county until the fall of 1874 when they removed to Sac county and purchased the north half of section 2 in Wheeler township. At this time there were no roads and few settlers in their vicinity. In the spring of 1875 they built a house and began developing the farm. About this time they also bought the southeast quarter of section 36 at a cost of five dollars and fifty cents an acre on ten years' time. So industrious and frugal were this excellent couple that it was only a very short time until they were free from debt and added more land to their holdings. They were able to give forty acres to each of their sons outright and yet have four hundred acres of fine land, including one hundred and twenty acres in Woodbury county, Iowa. In 1894 they left the farm and removed to Odebolt where they have a comfortable residence in the southeastern part of the city.

Politically, Mr. Goreham is a Progressive and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is the father of eight children, as follows: One died in infancy; George, who died at the age of three years; Mrs. Mary Coy, of Highlands, California; Horace, of Merville, Iowa, and who is the father of one child, Aubrey; Leonard, residing on the old homestead and who has three children, Clarence, Irene and Laura; Edson, located on the west quarter section of the old homestead and who has five daughters, Doris and Dorothy (twins), Charlotte, Mildred and Gertrude; Mrs. Grace Gunderson, who lives on the southeast quarter section of the home farm in Wheeler township and is the mother of seven children, Hazel, Vernon, Pierce, Paul, Cyril, Eva, Edward; Mrs. Mabel Irwin, of Odebolt; Wilbur, deceased in 1878.

Mr. Goreham has the distinction of having been the first township clerk in Wheeler township and assisted in the organization of the township when it was set off from Levey township. He also had charge of the first election ever held in the township and was a prominent factor in Republican politics during his many years of residence in the township. After serving as clerk he was four times elected township trustee and also served as secretary of the school board.

On January 20, 1914, this pioneer couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Concerning this important affair the *Odebolt Chronicle* had the following to say:

"The half century mile post of wedded life stretches away off in the dis-

tance and but few attain it. Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Goreham, pioneer residents of this community, were privileged to reach the goal, however, and celebrated their golden wedding at their Odebolt home on Tuesday, January 20th, in a way that befitted the importance of the event. They reached the goal in good health, blessed with a happy home and the possessors of an army of friends.

"For a good many years the couple had looked forward to the date of January 20, 1914, which would round out their fifty years of married life. Provided they reached the goal in good health, they had long ago decided the event should be celebrated as it should be.

"It was their privilege to do so and accordingly the event was celebrated as it should be. With all of their children about them, except one, Mrs. P. F. Coy, of Highlands, California, they kept open house from two to five P. M., and between those hours over one hundred of their friends called to pay their respects, to visit awhile and to wish for the venerable pair continuance of good health and longevity.

"The home was beautifully decorated for the affair. All of the rooms were a perfect bower of roses, jonquils and carnations. Smilax, sent all the way from California, added to the beauty of the rooms. Many of the flowers were the gifts of friends. The guests were received in the spacious living room and after extending congratulations filtered through the rooms to make themselves comfortable and to enjoy the hospitality that was theirs to enjoy. A two-course luncheon was served to all, a total of one hundred and twenty being served.

"They were married in Lost Nation, Clinton county, Iowa, fifty years ago. Forty years ago they came to Sac county and bought the farm known as the north half of section 2 of Wheeler township. Coming at that early date they have a right to be classed as pioneer residents. They saw the country in its newest state and its subsequent development and have never been sorry that they cast their lot in good old Sac county. Until nearly twenty years ago they made their home on the old farm, where they reared their family and met with success in a financial way. Something over nineteen years ago they bought the place in town and turned the farm over to the sons. When in a reminiscent mood they can recount some interesting experiences of the early days and know what pioneering in its most rugged sense is. They still have the handle of their first broom in their possession and Mrs. Goreham still uses it as a clothes stick on washdays. Cake was served to the guests from a platter that has been in the possession of the couple since the day of their marriage.

"Numerous presents were received by the couple Tuesday. The list is as follows: Parlor suite in golden oak, leather upholstered; gold bowl sugar shell; two gold bowl spoons, gold bowl berry spoon, two gold handled umbrellas, gold headed cane for Mr. Goreham, gold thimble for Mrs. Goreham, hand painted teapot, gold trimmed; set gold cuff bottoms, gold brooch and many gift cards.

"The out-of-town relatives and friends present were Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Goreham and son, Audrey; Mr. and Mrs. R. M. McCarter, Mr. and Mrs. William Barto, Mrs. W. E. Hall, all of Moville; George Cressey and daughter, Mrs. Robert Stewardson, Arthur; Mrs. Ernest McMillan, Ruthven; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Irwin, Pleasant Hill.

"An original poem by R. M. Stavely, a cousin of the couple, who resides in California, was read." It is the heartfelt wish of their many friends that they may live to celebrate their diamond jubilee.

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### AUGUST LUNDELL.

Sac county, Iowa, has been signally favored by so many natives of Sweden becoming her citizens and thus bringing into the moral, material and educational phases of her community life the high standards for which that country is known. No country of the world can boast of better characteristics in its natives than can the country above mentioned; no people of the world are more frugal, energetic, honest or worthily ambitious and the workings of these same traits in the rapidly growing section chosen by many Swedes as their home, have had a tendency to raise high the standard of correct living. Among the many natives of Sweden who have won success for themselves in Sac county and at the same time have conferred honor on their locality none is more widely and favorably known than August Lundell, the recognized leader among his nationality in this section.

Mr. Lundell was born on August 26, 1848, on a farm in Sweden, being the son of Andrew, who followed August to America some years later and resided on a farm in Wheeler township, this county. The mother was Anna Lundell, who joined the father in his emigration to America, and both finished their lives in Wheeler township, where they lie buried. There were four children in the family, those beside the immediate subject of this sketch being, P. G., who resides in Wheeler township, Mrs. Lundskorg, and John, who died in the country some time since.



August Lundell came to America in the spring of 1869 and first located near some of his nationality in Illinois, where he worked at farm labor for five years. In the spring of 1875 he first came to Sac county, Iowa, where the year previous he had purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid five dollars and sixty cents per acre, purchasing on time. In 1873, while living in Illinois, he had been united in marriage with Mary Walter, also a native of Sweden, born in October of 1848. Immediately after arriving in this county they began the erection of a home, and lived in Crawford county pending the completion of this residence. Mr. Lundell was getting things well under way when the grasshopper pest first came in 1876, and returned in 1877, doing considerable damage and working a terrible hardship upon the farmers for a few years. However, Mr. Lundell persisted in his labors, and after the passing of the pest commenced to see his way clear to greater achievements. For many years Mr. Lundell has kept a diary and upon referring to this under date of February 3, 1877, a notation is found stating that the weather was so mild that he had at that date begun his spring work. This was near the close of the famous mild winter of 1876-1877, but, on account of a freeze early in March, no crops were planted until the 29th of that month.

In 1880 Mr. Lundell purchased eighty additional acres, adjoining his first tract, paying ten dollars per acre for this later purchase, and in 1890 he bought one hundred and sixty acres more, which latter tract, however, has been divided and a portion sold. At the present time he owns three hundred acres of excellent rolling land, located in section 30, Wheeler township. This farm is one of the most attractive places in the county, amply attesting the unusual business ability and tireless energy of the owner. There are two fine residences on the farm, in one of which his sons Richard and Alvin, who now operate the farm, reside. This is a fine, modern structure, recently erected. There is also an unusually large and complete barn, size sixty-four by one hundred feet, as well as all other necessary farm buildings which are constructed in a most approved manner. The business of this farm is considerable and much attention is given to breeding live stock. The Polled Angus cattle are the favored breed and there are now on the farm sixty-odd head. Fully one hundred and fifty hogs are marketed annually, and in addition to the time and attention given to the stock, there is also much time and labor expended upon producing crops. Mr. Lundell is regarded as one of the most thorough and systematic farmers of the county and the products of his farm uphold this reputation.

In addition to the large demands made upon his time and energies by

his business and the rearing of his family, Mr. Lundell has found time to keep well posted on current events and to take an active part in the life of the community. Upon coming to this country he aligned himself with the Republican party, to which he adhered strictly until the birth of the Progressive party, when he endorsed the principles of that party as laid down by the convention at Chicago. He has served Wheeler township both as trustee and clerk and was also secretary and president of the school board at various times, and in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him in these various offices he has met only with the highest approval of all. He also was a member of the Sac county board of supervisors for the years 1896 to 1902, inclusive, and in every respect fully demonstrated his ability to adequately fill that chair. He is at present the candidate of his party for the state senatorship from his district. Mr. Lundell, who is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, is also active in religious circles and was one of the organizers of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church, which society was formed in 1875 and the church built about three years later. To the accomplishment of this labor, Mr. Lundell gave generously both of his time and means and is regarded as one of the leaders of that faith.

Mr. Lundell had a family of eight children, namely: Albert, who was born in 1874 and died in December of 1882; Richard, who was born in 1875 and, with Alvin, is now operating the farm; Anna O., who was born in 1877 and is now Mrs. C. W. Nilson, residing in Hays township, Ida county, this state. She is the mother of three children, Gladys, Royal and Golden, who are the only grandchildren of Mr. Lundell. Emil was born in 1878 and is a farmer in Ida county. Minnie Josephine and Lydia Christina are twins, born in 1870. The latter is deceased and Minnie is a stenographer. Alvin, who was born in 1884, remains at home, and the youngest of the family was Ernest, born in 1891 and who died in December of 1897. Mr. Lundell is a man of marked domestic traits, who takes much pride and pleasure in his family and realizes the responsibility of training his children in the right way of living. He is a man who in every relation of life endeavors to measure up to the full stature of manhood and any man who is sincerely possessed of this ambition is sure to rise high in the respect of his fellow men. The success which Mr. Lundell has won is the result of these correct principles of life, combined with many striking traits of character which mark him as a man above the average ability, of broad views, judicious in his judgment and in every respect entirely worthy of the high esteem in which he is held by all who know him.

## JOHN WESLEY YOUNIE.

John Wesley Younie, one of the pioneer settlers of Sac county, was born in Montreal, Canada, on July 15, 1849. He has been connected with the history of this county since 1873, and has been closely identified with the history of the county in every way for the forty odd years in which he has lived in it. He has taken a prominent part in various activities and has always been interested in everything which concerned the welfare of his country.

John Wesley Younie came from Scotch parentage, his father and mother, Louis and Jane (Maxwell) Younie, being born near Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland, respectively. His parents left Canada in 1861, after selling their farm near Montreal, and located in Delaware county, near Manchester, Iowa. In 1886 the Younie family moved to Hawarden, Iowa, where Louis Younie died in 1892, and his wife in 1903. Louis Younie and wife were the parents of twelve children: Maggie, born in May, 1848, died December 24, 1863; John Wesley; Mrs. Ellen Alby, born January 16, 1851, and died November 7, 1913; Mrs. Jeanette Bruce, born October 24, 1852, now living in Oklahoma; William, born February 5, 1854; Louis, born November 20, 1855; Mrs. Ann Churchyard, born October 5, 1857, now living at Green Acres, Washington; Alexander, born July 16, 1859; James, born October 26, 1861; David, born December 25, 1863; Richard and Jane, twins, born November 6, 1865. Louis, Alexander, James and Richard are all now living at Hawarden, Sioux county, Iowa. The father of these children was born December 15, 1815, and died in May, 1892; the mother was born February 28, 1828, and died in July, 1903. Their marriage occurred October 14, 1847.

John Wesley Younie was educated in the Canada schools and also attended two winter terms in Delaware county, Iowa, after his parents moved to this state. In 1873 Mr. Younie came to Sac county, and invested in one hundred and sixty acres in old Clinton township, later Richland, for which he paid five dollars and a half an acre. He was given six years to pay for it. On May 12, 1874, he returned with a breaking team and broke seventy-five acres, and planted forty acres of wheat and twelve acres of sod corn. The first crop of wheat averaged twenty-three and a half bushels to the acre, which he hauled twenty-two miles and received fifty cents for each bushel. The second year he raised ninety acres of wheat, averaging six bushels to the acre. For this he received eighty-two cents a bushel, but decided that wheat raising was unprofitable and quit the business and began raising stock.

When he first came to this county Mr. Younie brought his shack with him on the train and set up his twelve-by-fourteen home and used this for six years. Here he and his young wife started to housekeeping, and during the first few years there were times when things looked pretty discouraging, but they had brave hearts, stout hands and determined to stick to the land, and in six years they were able to build a new house, which cost them nineteen hundred and fifty dollars. This was considered a large sum in those days. In 1882 they sold the farm for thirty dollars an acre cash and spent some time traveling in Dakota and Nebraska, looking for a location which might suit them better. However, they found nothing which pleased them any more than their own county, so they returned to Sac county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of section 31 in Richland township, at twenty-three dollars an acre. It had no buildings on it and was unimproved in every way. They improved it, built a good home, barn and outbuildings and have put, all told, about six thousand dollars worth of improvements on the farm. He has the farm well fenced with woven wire fence and cement posts and the farm today can not be purchased for less than two hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Younie moved to Odebolt, where they had previously built a concrete bungalow.

John Wesley Younie was married on February 2, 1875, to Emma M. Messerole, who was born April 28, 1855, in Delaware county, Iowa. She was the daughter of Jacob and Mary Anna (Holcomb) Messerole, natives of Brooklyn, New York, and Loraine county, Ohio, respectively. The Messeroles came to Delaware county, Iowa, in 1854, four years after their marriage in Ohio. Jacob Messerole was born in Brooklyn, New York, January 20, 1829, and died April 6, 1871. Mary Ann Holcomb, the mother of Mrs. Younie, was born September 9, 1830, in Loraine county, Ohio, and died January 20, 1894. After the death of her first husband, Mrs. Messerole married Reuben Durrin. Jacob Messerole and wife were the parents of a large family of children: Edward J., born January 18, 1851, killed on railroad June 22, 1869; Emma; William Ellison, born February 5, 1857, and now lives at Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Ransom E., born April 12, 1859, now living at Pierson, Iowa; Florence Eudora, who died at the age of five; Curtis Grant, born January 3, 1864, and died January 25, 1914. To the second marriage of Mrs. Messerole and Reuben Durrin there was born one daughter, Mrs. Jasper Dennis, who now lives in Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Younie have reared a family of interesting children, five of whom are now living: Mrs. Jeanetta S. Prusia, born December 9, 1875, and graduated from college at Ames, Iowa, in 1899; she is now

taking post-graduate work at the college at Ames; she has four children, one of whom is deceased, Cedric Edmunds; Helen Constance, deceased; Joyce Eleanor and Lee Miles. The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Younie is Louis, of Portland, Oregon, born March 26, 1877, and has one child, Virginia Caroline, born February 13, 1914; Mrs. Effie Ethel Weston, of New York state, born May 16, 1880, and has two children, John Miller and Marian Josephine; Roy William, of Beresford, South Dakota, born August 16, 1883; Guy Leslie, a farmer of this township, born October 16, 1887, and married August 3, 1910, to Minnie Johnson; Marian Abbott, born November 21, 1897, and died June 14, 1898.

Politically, Mr. Younie is a Republican, and has served as school director in his district for the past twenty-three years and also served as treasurer of the school board of Richland township. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church and render it their zealous support. Fraternally, Mr. Younie is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Daughters of Rebekah and the Yeomen. The career of Mr. Younie shows the result of a life of hard work and good business management, since he started in life with practically nothing and has gained a very comfortable competence for his declining years. All of this has been accomplished without incurring the ill will of any of his neighbors, and by taking his full share in the public life of the community in which he has resided.

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### EDWARD DREWRY.

Scholarly attainments broaden the mental horizon of the individual and render his pathway through life more enjoyable and success easier of attainment. In all new countries the citizen who is possessed of an education is afforded opportunity for advancement which can not be adequately grasped by every person. Such a man is and can be a very useful addition to any community as his sphere of activity is practically unlimited, and avenues of procedure are opened for him which are otherwise denied the man who does not possess a literary education. Then, too, it is true that the old age period of the educated man whose mind has been taught to read and assimilate at the same time, is more happily passed on this account. Though old in years, yet young in mental and physical activity, Edward Drewry, of Sac City, is one of the truly interesting characters



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD DREWRY





who has resided for a long time in the country and has been a valuable member of the body politic and is yet active in affairs which concern men. Although having passed the age of three score years and ten, which is said to be man's allotted time on earth, he is still a vigorous specimen of manhood and keenly intelligent.

Edward Drewry was born June 5, 1835, in Toronto, Canada, and is the son of Edward B. and Elizabeth (Ray) Drewry, the former a native of Lincolnshire, England, and the latter a native of Ireland. Edward B. was born in 1801 and left England when eighteen years of age to seek his fortune in the New World in company of his parents who removed to Canada in 1819. When he became of age he adopted farming as a vocation and followed it for several years in Canada. He was appointed court commissioner in Ontario and held this important office for several years. He afterwards opened a tavern which he conducted for about six years. After a year's residence in western Canada he migrated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and lived there for one and one-half years. He went from Milwaukee to a pioneer farm in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, which was then a wilderness. He hewed a home from the wilderness and died after two years' residence thereon on January 4, 1849, at the age of forty-seven years, one month and seventeen days. Edward B. Drewry was the son of George and Elizabeth Drewry and was, himself, the father of eight children, as follows: Frances Elizabeth, deceased; David Bemrose, deceased; Eliza Jane, deceased; Edward; George, deceased; William, deceased, who was one of the early settlers of Douglas township and who located in Sac county as early as 1866; Mrs. Mary Ann Roundsville, of Sac City.

Edward Drewry received his education in the schools of his native land and in the rural schools of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. He also pursued a business course in Milwaukee. He first took up the profession of teaching and taught in the rural schools of Sheboygan county and also filled the position of town superintendent of schools and also county superintendent of schools, being the third county superintendent of that county. He also served as township clerk. For some years he taught school during the winter season and farmed during the summer. For three years he had charge of the schools of Plymouth, Wisconsin. In 1860 he was elected county superintendent of schools of Sheboygan county and filled this responsible position for two years. In the year 1869 he removed to the neighboring state of Michigan and purchased a farm which he operated for some time or until 1871, when he disposed of his land and returned to Plymouth. He

bought a farm near his home town and tilled it for nine years, after which he sold his holdings and came to Iowa, arriving here in 1882. He settled on what was formerly known as the Dobson farm four miles north of Sac City, in Douglas township, and cultivated it for eight years.

In the year 1890 Mr. Drewry was elected county superintendent. The position came to him unsolicited and he was elected on the Democratic ticket, winning out over his Republican opponent by but four votes, but overcoming a big Republican majority of over twelve hundred in the county. He filled this responsible position in an able manner for two years. In 1892, or thereabouts, he, in partnership with Asa Platt, purchased a store and stock of merchandise of J. L. Criss and was engaged in the mercantile business for five years. He then sold out and retired from active pursuits, other than engaging in the insurance and real estate business independently.

Mr. Drewry was married November 14, 1861, in Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Martha A. Dockstader, who was born in the state of New York December 17, 1837, and is the daughter of Benjamin Dockstader, a native of New York and who settled in Wisconsin about 1853. Three children have been reared by this highly esteemed couple, namely: Benjamin Edward, who operates an automobile garage in Sac City; Charles Francis, a bank cashier at Los Banos, California, and who has one daughter named Gladys; Harold John, local manager of the W. J. Dixon Lumber Company, and who is the father of one child, Marjorie M. Drewry.

Mr. Drewry is a Democrat. He was reared in the Episcopalian church of Canada and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is very prominent in lodge affairs, being far advanced in the ancient rites of Freemasonry. He is a member of Occidental Lodge No. 178, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Darius Chapter No. 58; Rose Croix Commandery No. 38, of which he has been the recorder for nine years, and has also served as secretary of the chapter for the same length of time. For a long time he has been the efficient secretary of Occidental Lodge of Masons and his Masonic career extends over a long period of forty years or since the year 1870. He was a member of the Odd Fellows for over forty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Drewry reside in a comfortable and cozy home in Sac City and are hospitable to the core; recognized as valuable members of the community and highly esteemed and respected for their culture and educational attainments. Despite his age Mr. Drewry is still a useful and active citizen and gives promise of many more active and valuable years.

which will undoubtedly be spent in behalf of his fellowmen in as far as his ability and powers will allow him. It is of such men as he that the biographer is pleased to write for recording in the annals of Sac county.

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### SWAN ANDERSON.

Among the many excellent citizens of Sac county, Iowa, of Swedish origin, is the subject of this sketch, who, through years of honest and unremitting toil and frugality, is now able to take his place among the well-known farmers of this county, many of whom have achieved most gratifying success in their chosen vocation and others who are in a fair way to realize their highest ambitions in this line.

Swan Anderson was born on April 25, 1869, in Sweden, being the son of Anderson Nilson and Johanna Anderson, neither of whom ever left their native country. An older brother (N. P. Anderson), who had been in this country for some time, persuaded Swan also to come to America. N. P. Anderson first lived in Sac county and later went to Nebraska, where he died. Swan Anderson emigrated to America in 1885 and had but four dollars in his pocket when he arrived in New York City on November 15th of that year. He disembarked one Sunday afternoon and early Monday morning he started out for Sac county, Iowa. Upon arriving here, he secured employment with P. B. Olson, of Wheeler township, with whom he remained during that winter and in the spring of 1886 he secured work on the Cook ranch, where he remained for sixteen years. He proved himself a faithful employe, worthy of every confidence, and carefully saved all possible out of his earnings. In 1901 he purchased the farm where he has since made his home, paying fifty-three dollars per acre for his land, and since making the purchase he has greatly improved the farm buildings and rebuilt the residence. This house occupies a most lovely location, being set back in the center of the tract in a grove of trees and is reached from the public highway by means of a long drive-way. Mr. Anderson pays particular attention to producing such crops as are raised in this section, being uniformly successful in his endeavors. He also devotes considerable attention and time to raising live stock, producing from eighty to one hundred head of hogs annually. He prefers the Poland-China breed and has an excellent strain. In cattle he likes best the Angus breed, and has at present about thirty head. He keeps eleven head of horses for general purposes,

and is well equipped for carrying on the work of his farm. He approves modern methods of farming and to careful attention to detail in this respect he attributes his growing success.

On February 23, 1899, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Anna Hakenson, who also was born in Sweden and came to this country in 1897. To their union have been born two daughters: Esther, born December 15, 1899, and Edith, born July 20, 1901, both of whom remain at home, attending school and being carefully trained in such knowledge as best fits a woman for her place in the world. In politics, Mr. Anderson is identified with the Progressive party, exhibiting a commendable interest in its affairs. The family attends the Methodist Episcopal church and also the Swedish mission, giving of time and means to further the cause. Mr. Anderson has won the sincere regard of those with whom he comes in contact on account of his upright principles and consistent manner of living. The success to which he has attained has been most fully deserved and, considering the circumstances under which he began his career in his chosen country, his course has been most commendable in every particular.

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#### ULYSSES S. HILL.

Among the well-known farmers of Sac county, Iowa, is Ulysses S. Hill, who, since March 10, 1887, has resided on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Wheeler township. Mr. Hill is numbered among the progressive farmers of the county and his home farm is in an excellent state of cultivation and well improved. All barns and buildings are new, the residence having been completed in November of 1908. This is a handsome and commodious residence, consisting of ten rooms and having all modern improvements. There is a private gas plant, furnishing illumination for the entire house, and there is also running water throughout the baths, kitchens, etc. The house sits in the midst of fine grounds, affording every pleasure and convenience for the family, both indoors and out, and is in every sense a most attractive home.

Ulysses S. Hill was born on April 3, 1865, in Clinton county, Iowa, being the son of John and Ruth (Farrell) Hill, the former of whom was a native of England and the latter born in Canada of English parentage. John Hill, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1823 and emigrated to America in 1851. His early training in England had been along

agricultural lines, and to this line of work he devoted himself upon arriving in this country. He came almost directly to Clinton county, Iowa, and there passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1895. From the first he prospered, owing to native ability and other excellent traits, and later purchased a farm in Sac county. After taking up his residence in this state, John Hill met Miss Farrell, who afterwards became his wife, and to their union were born six children, the oldest being Ulysses, the subject of this sketch; then came Theodore, who resides in Clinton county; Roland and Earl are in Colorado; Martha is the wife of J. T. Irwin and lives in Boyer Valley township, this county, while Pearl, who is Mrs. Blue, resides in Cedar Rapids, this state.

Mr. Hill grew to manhood in Clinton county, where when a youth he attended the schools of the district and assisted the father in the work about the farm. On February 17, 1887, he was united in marriage with Lottie A. McMillan, also of Clinton county, the daughter of John McMillan, and soon thereafter he came to this county, taking up his residence on the farm where he has since resided. In the years he has lived here Mr. Hill has made marked and valuable improvements on the place. His barns and other buildings are especially fine, the large barn covering a space of forty-eight by sixty-two feet and containing many facilities. There is also a large corn crib, twenty-six by forty feet in size, having a capacity of twenty-four hundred bushels. Mr. Hill carries on general farming, raising about the usual crops, and in addition to this line of work he also gives some attention to stock raising. He has something of a reputation as a cattle breeder, paying particular attention to Shorthorns, having at the present time about thirty head. He also produces for the market about fifty head of Duroc-Jersey hogs annually and keeps eighteen head of horses, being general purpose animals. Mr. Hill is progressive in his ideas and conducts his business along lines most approved by modern science as related to farm work. These ideals, together with indomitable energy and a determination to win out, have placed him among the ranks of successful men of this county and, while winning his way along financial lines, he has so ordered his life as to win and retain the regard due from his fellow men to a man of sterling worth. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have a family of three children, namely: Ethel, Floyd and Darrell, all of whom are at home, the latter attending school.

In politics Mr. Hill is aligned with the conservative Republican party and takes a commendable interest in that party's affairs as related to local matters. He is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and his fraternal affiliations are with the body of Yeomanry. His career thus

far has been a consistent and honorable one, and because of his stanch integrity and accomplishments he is entitled to hold the confidence and good will of all who know him. He is one of those solid men of brain and substance so essential to the material growth and prosperity of a community and whose influence has been willingly extended in behalf of every deserving enterprise that has for its object the advancement of the moral welfare of the community.

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### ALFRED NELSON.

Among the citizens of Sac county, Iowa, who have won competencies for themselves and stand high in public estimation, is the man whose name forms the caption of this article. Alfred Nelson is a native of Sweden, born on February 21, 1863, the son of John and Lena (Olson) Nelson. In 1871 the family emigrated to America and first located in Marshall county, this state, and in 1877 Alfred came to Sac county. Here they purchased raw prairie land in Wheeler township and set about establishing a home. Their first residence was a small structure, size sixteen by twenty feet, which sheltered the family for a time, and then, as prosperity smiled on them, this home was considerably enlarged. The land was given every care possible and has been developed into an excellent farm. The mother died in February of 1881, leaving eight children, namely: Charles Oscar, deceased; Alfred; Olaf, who died at the age of fourteen; Mary, wife of Henry Banta and living in California; Amanda, who died at the age of twenty-one; August, who died in childhood, and Nels, who was born in 1877 in Marshall county and is now a rancher in the state of Idaho; Joseph is also a farmer in Idaho. After the mother's death in 1881, the father, with the younger children, moved to Nebraska and later to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he died. John Nelson married the second time and had altogether twelve children.

When a boy, Alfred Nelson attended the district schools of Marshall and Sac counties and began farming for himself in 1882. For several years he rented land and in 1908 purchased a tract of eighty acres in section 27, Wheeler township, at a cost of one hundred and five dollars per acre. When he first began farming, he lived on his father's farm and moved to his present location before making the purchase. Altogether he is farming two hundred and eighty acres, one hundred and twenty of which is owned by



Mrs. Gorenson, mother of Mrs. Nelson. In addition to his comfortable dwelling, he has a large barn, size forty-eight by fifty-eight feet, which was built in 1911, as well as many other buildings necessary for the carrying on of the business of the farm. The house is attractively located in a little valley, about a half of a mile from the main highway. Mr. Nelson has considerable live stock, to which he devotes particular attention. He has ten head of horses which are used for general farm purposes, raises for the market about one hundred hogs annually and one car-load of cattle.

Mr. Nelson's political affiliation is with the Democratic party and he takes more than a nominal interest in local politics, having served as a member of the school board and township trustee and in the discharge of the duties thus devolving upon him he met with the approval of all concerned. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being associated with that society through the local lodge at Odebolt.

On March 14, 1882, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Anna Sophia Peterson, who was born in Sweden on May 31, 1864. She is the daughter of Olaf Peter Peterson, who died in 1871, and her mother married C. A. Gorenson after being widowed. In 1880 the family came to America, locating in Wheeler township, where Mr. Gorenson died in 1889. Mrs. Gorenson was born April 14, 1839, and is well preserved for a woman of her years. She makes her home with Mrs. Nelson, who is her only child. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are the parents of an interesting family of thirteen children, the oldest of whom, Albert Oscar, remains at home, while Ida E. is the wife of H. Nelson and lives in Oakland, California; Emma E. is also married, being the wife of O. E. Bergren, of Wheeler township; Will A. is a farmer in this same township; Esther M. (Mrs. Crownquist) lives at Gowrie, Iowa; Vern M. resides at Holstein, this state, and the others of the family, Lillian, Elmer C., Sydney O., Glenn M., Gladys E., Francis T. and Dorothy E., remain under the parental roof. There are three grandchildren, being Cozette and Wallace Bergren and Jessie Nelson.

Mr. Nelson is a man of marked domestic tastes and takes much pleasure in his home and family. That he possesses good business ability, energy and thrift are demonstrated by his accomplishments, and the fact that he stands high in public estimation among those with whom he has lived for many years, marks him as a man of sterling traits of character. Aside from his business duties, Mr. Nelson finds time to keep himself well informed on up-to-date methods as related to general farming and stock raising, and is also well informed on current events.



## HON. WILL DRURY.

History consists of facts presented in a readable form so that all may read. It is but a record of what man has done and is doing. Biography comprises a review of the lives of men who have assisted in making history. Some of those of whom the biographer must necessarily write, mayhap, occupy humble stations in life, but have done their part in making real history; others have been gifted above the average of their fellowmen and have achieved marked success in their particular lines of endeavor; some have risen to leadership and have been the recipients of distinguished preferment and appreciation by the people. All combined assist in the creation of narrative history. The biographies of citizens of any section of the commonwealth form a vital part of the complete record intended to be preserved for all time to come and to serve as an inspiration and guide for the present and future generations. He of whom this review is written has been an important factor in the civic and official history of Sac county and is one of her successful and best-known citizens. This biography is, therefore, a necessity in the proper compilation of these Sac county memoirs.

Hon. Will Drury, of Clinton township, was born October 2, 1862, in Clinton county, Iowa, and is the son of Thomas Drury, born in England in the year 1834. His mother was Elizabeth Davis, born in the province of Ontario, Canada, the daughter of John G. Davis and Sarah (Hopkins) Davis, early pioneer settlers of Clinton county, Iowa, who settled in the county at a time when Freeport was the nearest trading point.

Thomas Drury emigrated from England, when seventeen years of age, made his way to Clinton county and there settled on a farm. In 1863 he was killed by an accident while working with a piece of machinery. He was the father of three children, namely: Mrs. Nettie Wolf, residing in Louisiana; John T., deceased in 1893; and Will. The mother of these children died in 1906.

Will Drury came to Sac county in the fall of 1880 in company of Robert Wilson, who afterwards became county treasurer of Sac county. In December of the same year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 5 of Clinton township at fifteen dollars an acre, on a time contract. For this land he made a cash payment of two hundred dollars and agreed to pay the remainder in ten years time. During the first two years he "bached" on his land, while making improvements. He managed to pay for the farm in the required time by exercise of tireless industry and frugality.



HON. WILL DRURY



Mr. Wilson purchased the adjoining quarter on section 5. Mr. Drury lived on his first farm until the spring of 1895 and then disposed of it for forty-five dollars an acre, which was at that time the highest known price ever paid for farm land in Sac county.

Previously, in the fall of 1893, he had purchased two hundred and twenty acres in Clinton township at thirty-five dollars an acre and one hundred and sixty acres in Boyer Valley township at twenty-five dollars an acre. He at once commenced improving his new place, remodelling the buildings and erecting necessary new ones, at a cost of several thousand dollars. This farm is widely and favorably known as "West Riverside Farm," the buildings of which are situated on the west bank of the Boyer river and command a pleasing outlook over a wide expanse of fertile territory. The residence is a comfortable one, reached by a driveway lined with stately trees. Three large barns are located to the west and somewhat in the rear of the home and are flanked by a modern cement silo. This farm produces two hundred cattle and three hundred hogs annually. Mr. Drury believes in selling the products of his farm on the hoof and thus building up the fertility of his land and increasing its productiveness. He was formerly a breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle. He owns a total of three hundred acres of land in Clinton and Boyer Valley townships and, in partnership with his son, owns two hundred and forty acres in Delaware township. For over twelve years he was in the live stock and grain business in the nearby town of Early, having not been engaged in grain buying and shipping for eight years past.

Mr. Drury is allied with the Republican party and his convictions are decidedly of the progressive order. He has been given high political preferment by his fellow citizens in Sac county, and in every instance when called to public office has acquitted himself with credit to himself and his constituents. He was elected as representative in the state Legislature in the fall of 1906 and was a member of the thirty-second General Assembly. While serving in the thirty-second session of the Legislature he was a member of the committees on railroad and commerce and the ways and means committee. He was again elected in 1908 and served in the thirty-third General Assembly. In this assembly he was a member of the committee on public officers, at that time one of the most important committees, owing to the fact that several changes in salaries of the state offices were imminent; was a member of the ways and means committee; and the committees of railroad and transportation, commerce and trade, telephone, public lands and horticulture. It can truthfully be said of him that he served the people faithfully and conscientiously during his two terms in the state legislative body. Mr. Drury has always taken an

active part in state and county politics and has attended both county and state conventions in the capacity of delegate. His influence has always been exerted for the bringing about of the greatest good to the greatest number of people. In addition to holding the high office of representative, he has practically filled all township offices, having served faithfully as township clerk, school director, assessor and town trustee. In addition to his various activities as business man and farmer he is a stockholder and director of the Citizens State Bank of Early.

Hon. Will Drury has been three times married. His first marriage was on December 28, 1882, with Sarah Wilson, who died June 5, 1895, and who bore him four children, as follows: Mrs. Maud L. Smith, of Clinton township; Millard, a farmer in Delaware township; Blanche M., who is a nurse and makes her home with her father when not on duty; Clara, formerly a teacher in district 8 of Boyer Valley township and wife of Elmer Evans, of Early, assistant cashier in the Citizens State Bank.

He was again married January 26, 1897, to Mae C. Dell, of Buffalo, New York. Six children were born to this union as follows: C. Merrill, born in November of 1897, and is a graduate of the Early high school; Grover E., aged fourteen years; Will, aged twelve years; Sarah, aged nine; Howard and Homer, twins, born June 12, 1908. The mother of these children departed this life on June 30, 1908, just eighteen days after the birth of the twins.

On September 29, 1909, Mr. Drury was wedded to Laura Gathman, of Sac county, and who was born in the county and was the daughter of Frank and Catharine (Billenberg) Gathman, early settlers of Sac county. This marriage has resulted in the birth of one child, Joyce, aged three years.

Mr. Drury is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and values highly his membership in the Knights Templar commandery of Sac City and the Scottish Rite, thirty-second degree, and is a Shriner, being a member of Za-Ga-Zig Temple, at Des Moines. He was formerly a member of the Knights of Pythias of Odebolt. While his family are attendants of the Methodist church, Mr. Drury himself does not belong to any religious organization. He aims to lead an exemplary life and is a firm believer in the principles of right living as embodied in the Golden Rule enunciated by the greatest of all moral teachers and takes this as his code to follow. He believes in assisting his fellowmen where help is needed and there are many instances in which his helping hand has been extended in behalf of some fellow creature in need. He is a well read man who has practically educated

himself along broad lines of thought. He has decided progressive leanings and sees nothing but eventual good for all the people in the great reform movements which are now sweeping the country and causing an awakening in the business, civic and moral life of the people everywhere in this great free country of ours. He is emphatically in favor of government supervision and control of business and public utilities to such an extent that the producer and the product of his labor can be brought into closer contact with the consumer and he predicts that in the near future there will be more tillers of the soil because of the economic necessity of the times which demands a greater increase and a cheapening of the supplies of food stuffs. Mr. Drury is emphatically a man of pronounced ideas along broad lines of thought and has the faculty of expression and the ability to enunciate clearly so as to have considerable influence in spreading abroad the advancing waves for better and more equitable living and a wider distribution of the good things of life. His home is one of the most hospitable in the county and the personnel of his interesting family reflects the attributes of the father of the house to a great extent. His sons and daughters are alike intelligent and are becoming valued members of the community. This biography is written as an appreciation at first hand of this excellent and distinguished gentleman and to serve as a permanent record for the benefit of his children and for the perusal by his many warm friends, who are legion.

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### GEORGE H. HANSON.

Several things must be taken into consideration in the preparation of a biography of an individual. The writer must necessarily study the attributes and character of the person under review and present to the best possible advantage as a matter of permanent record his abilities and accomplishments. Young men, as a rule, have their careers yet ahead of them and are often confronted with the difficulty of choosing the right vocation and the one which seems best adapted to their powers and, above all, the occupation which is most likely to yield the greater measure of substantial return in exchange for their efforts. While many young men have turned away from the farm and entered the learned professions, there to achieve success or fail, as the case may be, a gradually increasing number are embracing the science of agriculture in its truest sense and adopting farming as a permanent pursuit. They are wise in their generation and are assured of a

permanent occupation and a comfortable and contented existence, with a practical certainty of wealth ahead of them. The young farmer of today is usually well educated and has had the opportunity of special preparation along the lines of his chosen work not possessed by his father who preceded him. A farmer with well developed tastes for the work and whose faculties have received cultivation in other lines to his personal advantage is found in the person of George Hanson, manager of Echo Valley farm in Wheeler township.

George H. Hanson was born March 2, 1883, in Odebolt, the son of Henry Hanson, a pioneer settler of Sac county and native of Sweden, and of whom extended mention is made in this volume. He was a student of the Odebolt high school, and then studied for three years, 1899, 1900 and 1903, in the State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa. After finishing his course at Ames he went to the city of Chicago and studied for a term of one year in the famous Art Institute of that city. On his return he engaged in farming in Wheeler township.

Mr. Hanson's farm embraces three hundred and seventy acres in the southern part of Wheeler township and is decidedly one of the best equipped farming establishments in Sac county or western Iowa. The buildings are located in a valley and are all practically new and constructed modernly with every convenience for facilitating agricultural operations and insuring home comforts. A beautiful cottage lies on the north side of the road, being a nine-room structure built mostly of concrete. Another substantial tenant building is located on the south side of the road which divides the land and separates the home from the barns and farm buildings, which are practically built of concrete at considerable expense. The farm buildings comprise a horse barn, fifty-four by sixty-four feet in dimension, a cattle barn sixty-four by fifty-two feet in extent, and a granary or crib with a capacity of six thousand bushels of grain. The buildings were practically all erected in 1907.

Mr. Hanson is a well-known breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, of which he has a herd of sixty pure breds; he has twenty head of grade horses and one hundred and fifty head of Poland-China hogs.

Politically, George H. Hanson is allied with the Republican party; he is a member of the Presbyterian church and is fraternally connected with the Masonic lodge at Odebolt.

Mr. Hanson was married June 12, 1907, to Zella Hardy, of Denison, Iowa, a daughter of A. P. Hardy. Their home life and furnishings betoken refinement and education. Mr. Hanson is still a student and a reader



who aims to keep abreast of the times as well as being a successful farmer. It is a safe prediction that his career will prove to be an honorable and useful one and that his influence among his fellow men will prove to be the best evidence of inherited and developed ability.

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### ALLIE J. PAUL.

It is with marked satisfaction that the biographer adverts to the life of one who has attained success in any vocation requiring definiteness of purpose and determined action. Such a life, whether it be one of calm, consecutive endeavor or of sudden meteoric accomplishments, must abound in both lesson and incentive and prove a guide to young men whose fortunes and destinies are still matters for the future to determine. The subject of this sketch is distinctively one of the representative agriculturists of Sac county. For a number of years he directed his efforts toward the goal of success and by patient continuance in well doing succeeded at last in overcoming the many obstacles by which his pathway was beset, and is today considered one of the foremost farmers and stock dealers of the county.

Allie J. Paul, a prominent farmer and live stock dealer of Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, was born December 5, 1869, in the state of Wisconsin. His parents were William C. and Hannah (Biddick) Paul. The Paul ancestry is presented in the sketch of C. A. Paul, which is found elsewhere in this volume. Allie J. Paul was an infant when the family moved to Hardin county, Iowa, from Wisconsin. In 1892 the Paul family moved to Sac county, Iowa, and settled in Wheeler township.

Allie J. Paul was educated in the schools of Hardin county, Iowa, and assisted with the labor on the farm when not in attendance at school. After the family moved to Sac county, Iowa, he remained on the home farm until 1895, then married and rented the tract known as the Mitts farm for three years, 1895 to 1898, at which time he returned to his father's farm and resided on that place for ten years, but removed to Odebolt, where he is now living, and in 1901 he purchased two hundred acres of land in this county known as the Martin Miller farm and paid seventy-five dollars an acre for the farm. His land holdings now are two hundred acres in Wheeler township, two hundred acres in Dickinson county, Iowa, and eighty acres in Levey township, this county. In addition to his land holdings, he also owns an entire block in Odebolt, in which his home is located, opposite the city

park. Here he has a fine, modern home which is equipped with all the up-to-date conveniences. He is now buying and shipping a large amount of live stock annually, and buys in this immediate neighborhood at least forty cars of stock each year.

Mr. Paul was married February 18, 1896, to Edith Sheldon, who was born in Delaware county, Iowa, June 6, 1876. Her parents were Charles Field and Jeannette (Coquillet) Sheldon, natives of Ohio and Chicago, Illinois, respectively. Her parents on both sides were early settlers in Delaware county, Iowa, and were married in that county. They came to Sac county in March, 1877, locating in Cedar township. They are now living in Texhoma, Oklahoma, where they moved in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Paul are the parents of six children: Vern Allie, born December 12, 1896; Archie Lawrence, born November 19, 1898; Grace Ella, born August 13, 1904; Winnie Evelyn, born November 6, 1906; Milton Arthur, born March 29, 1910, and Thelma Eloise, born February 7, 1912.

Politically, Mr. Paul is a Progressive, feeling that the interests of the nation at large demand such principles as are advocated by that party. He and all of his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and render it faithful service. Mr. Paul has been true to his ideals in every turn of his life and the respect and esteem in which he is held by his friends and neighbors shows that he has lived a life which has been marked by honest and sound business principles. He is a man of genial personality and easily makes and retains friends and no man in the township is more widely and favorably known and respected than is he. He and his family are the centers of a circle of friends who delight to be entertained in their hospitable home.

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#### CHARLIE A. PAUL.

While this book contains specific mention of many of the older citizens of Sac county, Iowa, men who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality, there are yet others who, while they can not be numbered among the pioneers, yet have wielded a definite influence on the best growth and development of later years. Among this class of influential citizens may be mentioned the subject of this sketch. Charlie A. Paul resides in Wheeler township where he farms a tract of one hundred and forty-three acres, being a portion of the William C. Paul estate of four hundred and eighty acres. Mr. Paul devotes his time to the raising of grain and

hogs, and annually disposes of from eighty to one hundred head. He also has twenty head of cattle and for doing the work of the farm he has six head of horses.

Mr. Paul was born in Wisconsin, Grant county, on October 9, 1867, the son of William C. and Hannah Paul, both of whom were natives of England. William C. was born in 1846 and died in Wheeler township, this county, on November 6, 1902. Hannah, his wife, was born in 1844 and at present resides in Odebolt. They were married in 1865, William C. having emigrated to this country in 1857 and Hannah in 1849, being but a small child when her parents left their native country. The family first resided in Grant county, Wisconsin, and in 1870 came to Hardin county, this state. There they remained until 1893, when they became citizens of Sac county. William C. Paul having come here in the previous year and purchased the tract of four hundred and eighty acres above mentioned. There were originally five children in the family, but four of whom are living. Those other than Charlie A., the immediate subject of this sketch, are Ella (Mrs. Sargisson), who lives in Luton, Iowa; Allie J., a stock buyer and farmer, located at Odebolt, and Myron H., also of Odebolt, and engaged in the retail meat business.

Charlie A. Paul received his elemental instruction in the district schools, later supplemented by individual study and a course at the Crescent City Commercial College at Des Moines, this state. The labor of his mature years has been wholly devoted to agricultural duties. He has been farming the homestead since shortly after the father purchased it and in the fall of 1901 the father moved to Odebolt, leaving the subject in full charge of the management of the farm. His activities in this direction have proclaimed him a man of excellent business ability and undoubted integrity. Politically, he is aligned with the Progressive party and, aside from his private duties, finds time to assume something of the burden of public service. He is a trustee and school director for Wheeler township, and is also a director in the Farmers Savings Bank of Odebolt. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church, to the support of which he contributes generously of both time and means.

On March 20, 1901, Mr. Paul was united in marriage with Sarah Emma Crawford, who departed this life on November 26, 1912, at the age of thirty-four years. Mrs. Paul was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church and was highly esteemed by those who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. She left a family of five children. Iola J. is eleven years of age; Veryl C., nine years old; Myrtle H., six years old, and Lloyd

W. and Lyle J. are a fine pair of twin boys aged four years. To the proper rearing of this interesting family Mr. Paul is bringing to bear every elevating influence at his command.

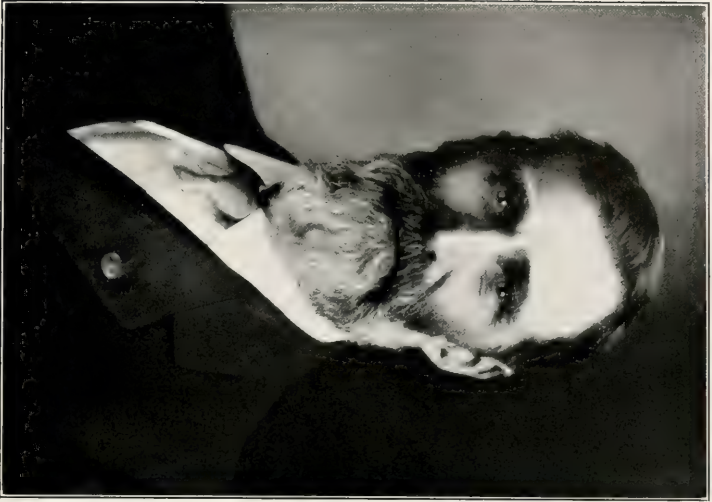
It is always pleasant as well as profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has won a definite station in life and whose influence is extended only in behalf of the most beneficial phases of community life. Since coming to this county, Mr. Paul has exhibited a sincere interest in all that relates to the best good of the community and has discharged such duties of citizenship as have fallen upon him in a manner worthy of commendation from all.

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### MARSHALL D. FOX.

The majority of men who have spent the better part of their allotted three score years and ten in the active pursuit of agriculture, or in almost any other vocation which requires close application and the expenditure of energy, are ready for rest when they attain such an age. We take it for granted that this is the acceptable thing for the worthy retired citizens found in practically every community to do and do not expect much activity in the affairs of the community on their part. There are found, however, some notable exceptions to what seems to have become the general custom among us. Frequently, we have individuals, who, while practically retired from active pursuits because there is no longer a necessity for a continuance of their labors, are still active in the affairs which concern mankind and, while old in years, they will be found young in deeds, with hearts still glowing earnestly for the well-being of their neighbors and still taking a lively interest in the doings of the body politic. An example of this class of citizens is found in the personage of Marshall D. Fox, retired veteran farmer of Odebolt.

Mr. Fox was born May 7, 1842, in Trumbull county, Ohio. His father was Samuel S. Fox, a native of New Hampshire, and who was a son of Amos Fox, of English parentage. Samuel S. was born in 1796 and died in 1878. He was reared to manhood in old New Hampshire and there married Dorothy Bullock, who was a member of the famous Shaker colony of New Hampshire. In the early twenties he migrated to Trumbull county, Ohio, and figured as a prominent factor in the pioneer life of eastern Ohio. He served his country in the War of 1812, and it is recorded of him that he was a brave and gallant soldier. He was twice married and was the father



MR. AND MRS. MARSHALL D. FOX



of fourteen children by his first wife and three by his second marriage. All the children of Samuel S. grew to maturity and were married. Five of them are yet living. The Fox family removed from the farm to Mentor, Ohio, and from there journeyed to Illinois in 1854. The mother died in the year 1856. In 1856 they moved to Minnesota, but, being dissatisfied with the outlook in this newer locality, they returned in 1857 and migrated to Clinton county, Iowa, in 1859.

Marshall D. Fox enlisted August 10, 1864, in Company A, Eleventh Iowa Infantry, and served nine months. During his term of service it was his good fortune to participate in two great battles and several skirmishes. He was a member of the army that conducted the siege and capture of the city of Atlanta, and fought in the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia.

After the close of hostilities he returned to his home, in Clinton county, and took up the vocation of farming. Here he was married, May 7, 1867, to Lydia F. Bennett, who was born March 9, 1850, in the city of Brownsville, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of William H. Bennett, the son of William Bennett, a scion of an old Virginia family. The wife of William H. was Mary Ann Wood, the daughter of Quaker parents. It is recorded that William H. Bennett was a tanner by trade and made an overland trip to the West via the water routes down the Monongahela and Ohio rivers and thence up the Mississippi and tributary streams. He bought an ox team which he drove to Iowa City in 1837, then the capital of the state, and later returned to Pennsylvania. He returned from Pennsylvania in the fall of 1854 and located on one hundred and sixty acres of government preemption land in Clinton county.

Many Clinton county people were talking of the newer and cheaper lands to be had in Sac county, and it was only natural that a number should become permanent settlers in the county. Among them was Marshall D. Fox, who was among the first to settle in Clinton township. March 27, 1874, he arrived in Clinton township, Sac county, preceding his wife, who came to join him in the following May, after he had finished the erection of a one and one-half storied house, sixteen by twenty-four feet in size. On October 3, 1874, disaster overtook them in the form of a holocaust which swept away the house and barns and consumed practically all of their furniture and outfit. The family barely escaped with their lives. This calamity left Mr. Fox in exceedingly hard circumstances, but "a friend in need is a friend indeed", and it was a very good friend who came to his rescue in this time of privation. A lumber man of Clinton county, who was his



warm friend, furnished him the lumber with which to rebuild, with the understanding that he was to pay the bill when able, and by November 3rd of the same year the new home and buildings were completed. Mr. Fox hauled the lumber for this second home, a distance of twenty miles, from the nearest railway station. His land is located in section 29 and cost him five dollars and fifty cents an acre at the outset. He soon had a beautiful grove and orchards growing on the place and gradually improved it until it is now rated as the most attractive and well kept farm in Clinton township. He recently sold the farm to his son, Harry V. The Fox farm is appropriately named "Ashlawn Farm," and is situated on the main highway between Lake View and Odebolt. In 1889 Mr. Fox added eighty acres to his holdings at a cost of thirty dollars an acre. He was also the owner of a fine quarter section of land in Delaware township which he sold at a good profit.

History records the fact that Mr. Fox built the third house in Clinton township and took a prominent part in the subsequent organization and naming of the township. In 1875, he and N. B. Umbarger journeyed to Sac City and presented the petition to the county officials praying for a separate township organization. This was granted and the county auditor suggested that the older settler of the two give the township its name. This naturally devolved upon Mr. Fox who thereupon bestowed the name "Clinton" in memory of his old home county. In the fall of 1904 he and his good wife removed to Odebolt and built for their future habitation a fine bungalow on Park avenue. At the outset Mr. Fox purchased two and one-half lots on Park avenue at a cost of one thousand seven hundred dollars, and later sold one corner lot for a consideration of nine hundred and fifty dollars. Here he and his faithful companion thoroughly enjoy their lives and take an active part in the social doings of the neighborhood. He is a member of the library board, the Cemetery association and the Automobile Club. At the age of seventy years he learned to drive an automobile. He chops wood every day of his life for needed exercise and is active, healthy and strong for one of his age. As his friends and admirers express it, "he is seventy years young".

He espouses the cause of the Progressive party and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is associated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a charter member of Col. Goodrich Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and has served as commander of this post.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox have reared six children on whom they have bestowed exceptional educational advantages and given, on their attaining their

respective majorities, the individual sums of one thousand dollars for a start in life. The children are as follows: Mrs. Flora Thomas, a resident of Des Moines, and the mother of two daughters, Blaine and Kathryn; Chauncey B., a citizen of Jasper, Minnesota, has four children, Helen, Rachel, Florence and Bennett; Mrs. Jessie Carpenter, of Mesita, Colorado, is the mother of two offsprings, Harry F. and Dorothy; Mrs. Fannie L. Quirk, of Clinton township, has one child, Edward L.; Harry V., on the home farm, is the father of three, Eugene Marshall, Paul, Elinor Elaine; Howard M., a resident of Des Moines.

A review of such a life as the foregoing is worthy of a prominent place in the history of Sac county. While mere words can not adequately convey a just appreciation of his manifold virtues as a citizen, this chronicle is respectfully submitted.

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#### FRED W. PETERSMEYER.

It is a well authenticated fact that success comes as the result of legitimate and well applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action when once decided upon. She is never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer and she never courts the loafer, only the men who have diligently sought her favor being crowned with her blessings. In tracing the history of the influential farmer and representative citizen of Sac county, Iowa, whose name forms the caption of this review, it is plainly seen that the prosperity which he enjoys has been won by commendable qualities and it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of those who know him.

Fred W. Petersmeyer, one of the prosperous farmers and substantial citizens of Sac county, Iowa, was born in Lake county, Indiana, June 7, 1867. His parents were Frederick Wilhelm and Caroline Petersmeyer, a sketch of whose history may be found elsewhere in this volume. In 1872 the Petersmeyer family moved to Sac county, locating in Richland township, where F. W., whose history is here set forth, was reared and educated. At the age of twenty-one he began farming for himself. Although he was beyond school age, he attended school for a few winters after reaching the age of twenty-one. This shows a striking characteristic of Mr. Petersmeyer and one which has dominated his whole career.

In 1892 Mr. Petersmeyer went to Cherokee county, Iowa, and engaged in farming in that county for the next five years. He then returned to

Odebolt, in this county, and worked in the grain elevator and also operated a threshing outfit during the summers of 1908, 1909 and 1910, and in 1910 got approval of the land and homestead claim, living upon it for several years, proving his claim, finally got a patent and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of excellent land in that state. In 1910 he returned to Odebolt and shortly afterward went to North Dakota with another threshing outfit. He spent the winter of 1913-14 in Odebolt, and in the spring of 1914 returned to North Dakota to resume threshing and farm work.

Mr. Petersmeyer was married in 1893 to Hulda Rasmus, who died two years later, leaving him one daughter, Edna, who is now a trained nurse in the Henrotin Memorial Hospital, Chicago. Mr. Petersmeyer has never remarried. In politics he is independent, but is naturally progressive in his tendencies. He favors good government and is not particular which party administers it. He is not a regular member of any church, yet he attends the Methodist Episcopal church and contributes to its support liberally. He is a man who has worked all of his life and has always borne his share in the life of the community in which he lives. He has many warm friends who admire him for his many good qualities.

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#### HENRY KESSLER.

Among the many Germans who have cast their lot in Sac county none have proven more worthy of the large success their thrift has brought or shown themselves to be worthier of the confidence and respect reposed in them by their neighbors and the public in general than Henry Kessler, of Odebolt, Iowa, a man who has never permitted obstacles to stand in his way and who has been watchful of the interests of the township and county in which he resides while forwarding those of his own.

Henry Kessler, a retired farmer of Odebolt, Iowa, was born July 3, 1841, in Cazerona, Saxe-Weimer, Germany, the son of Conrad and Marguerite (Baumgartner) Kessler. The mother died in Germany in 1861, and four years later the father, with eight children, came to America. These eight children were Barbara, Marguerita, Artman, George, Henry, Margaret, Veronica and Daniel. Artman had been a soldier in the Prussian army before coming to this county. The Kessler family settled in Lee county, Illinois, and Conrad Kessler died in 1882 at the home of his daughter in Benton county, Iowa.

Henry Kessler was twenty-four years of age when his father brought his children to this country. Four years after settling in Lee county, Illinois, Henry married Elizabeth Reudzel, and in 1873 moved to Benton county, Iowa. Five years later they moved to Sac county, this state, settling on one hundred and sixty-nine acres in section 6, Clinton township, which they purchased for five dollars and sixty cents an acre. Mr. Kessler proved to be a successful farmer and from time to time added to his land holdings, but sold some of his land, and he now owns three hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land in Richland and Clinton townships. Henry Kessler and wife moved to Odebolt, January 8, 1911, where he has a handsome home in the southeastern part of the city on Park avenue. He has turned over the actual management of the farm to his son. Mr. and Mrs. Kessler are the parents of eight children: George, who lives on a farm in Richland township; Mrs. Mary Frevert, of Floyd county, Iowa; Mrs. Katie Bachmann, of Crawford county, this state; John, a merchant of Ida Grove, Iowa; Edward, of this township, who owns a farm of eighty acres; Mrs. Rosina Einspahr, who lives on the old homestead place; Mrs. Caroline Nitzsche, of Clay county, Iowa, and Minnie E., who is at home with her parents; she is a graduate in music of Charles City College and is a teacher of instrumental music in Odebolt.

Politically, Mr. Kessler is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for any public office, although he has served as road supervisor of his township. The family are all loyal and devoted members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and give it their earnest support. Mr. Kessler is a man who has worked himself from an humble station in life to a successful place in the life of his community and has won an honorable place among the well-known farmers of the locality in which he resides.

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#### CHARLES GOODENOW.

Each life seems to be cast in a different mold, although environments similar in character surround all persons of any one community. We are influenced to some extent in our choice of a life career by the example set by our fathers; if the paternal parent of an individual has become successful in a good profession the son is very likely to follow in the footsteps of his father and to carry onward and upward the work begun. Thus it is seen that the parental influence, when wielded wisely and for the good of the

offspring, is the greatest impulse in shaping the careers of successful men. It is even claimed by some observers and writers that banking, for instance, is an inherited occupation and if a father is gifted with financial ability, this trait is transmitted to the son in a higher degree if he possesses a personal aptitude for the business. Even so, history records hundreds of instances where this highly important department of our national financial system has been more successfully conducted during past centuries where the heritage has been given over to the sons of the family who but stepped into the place left vacant by the father and acquitted themselves wonderfully and shouldered the responsibilities of conducting such an important business in a manner creditable to themselves and their predecessors. In writing the biography of Charles Goodenow, banker and leading citizen of Wall Lake, Sac county, account must be taken of the fact that his father was the pioneer banker of this locality and founded the business which the son has extended and broadened.

He whose name forms the caption of this chronicle was born August 13, 1856, in Clinton county, Iowa, and is the son of Royal Goodenow, pioneer settler and banker of Wall Lake, Iowa. Royal Goodenow was born in the state of New York, December 25, 1820, and was the son of Timothy Goodenow, a descendant of an old and highly respected family of New England. In the year 1845 he migrated to Clinton county, Iowa, and settled on a pioneer farm. He was one of the first settlers of this great county and was preceded by a brother, John E. Goodenow, who settled on a farm lying on the Jackson-Clinton county line as early as 1838. John E. had the distinction of being the first railroad land-grant owner in Iowa and was one of three trustees (Goodenow, Clark and Cotton) to whom the land grant was deeded in trust in 1841. In the year 1875 Royal Goodenow came to Sac county and invested in a tract of four hundred and eighty acres in section 1, Clinton township, to which he soon added one hundred and sixty acres, making an entire section of land which he owned. This was practically virgin prairie which he had broken for cultivation and improved. In 1882 he and Nelson Wright came to the new town of Wall Lake and started the Bank of Wall Lake, which was later reorganized as the Wall Lake Savings Bank in September of 1905. In his later years, when old age robbed him of some of his virile energy, he removed to Jackson county and there spent his remaining days amid the familiar scenes of his younger days, dying March 20, 1911. He will long be remembered in Sac county as one of the influential and striking figures of the county. The interesting history of the found-

ing of the Wall Lake Bank and its subsequent fortunes is graphically told in the banking chapter of this memoir.

This pioneer citizen of the county was twice married. His first wife was born in New York state and was Marilla Griffin, who bore him one son, Melville B., now a resident of Nebraska. His second marriage was with Sarah Sherwood, who was born in Ohio in 1833. They were married in Clinton county. To this union were born the following children: Charles; Mrs. Marilla Phillips, of Clinton county; Mrs. Candice Butterworth, of Jackson county; Burt L., a resident of South Dakota. He was a Democrat politically and was an exemplary and valuable citizen whose usefulness in the early development of Sac county is more than deserving of extended mention.

Charles Goodenow, the son, and with whom this review is directly concerned, received his education in the district schools of his native county. He came to Sac county when the family removed here and drove a large bunch of cattle ahead of him. He unloaded the cattle from the train at Grand Junction, Iowa, and drove them to his father's ranch by way of Lake City and Sac City. He assisted his father in hauling and handling the lumber used in the erection of the farm buildings and did his share in the prairie "breaking." In 1878 he journeyed to Nebraska and remained in this newer state for three and one half years, engaged in ranching. On his return to Sac county he located in the town of Wall Lake and opened a general merchandise store, which he conducted successfully for several years. He became connected with the Bank of Wall Lake, now the Wall Lake Savings Bank, some time later and has practically managed its affairs since 1882. His ability as a banker is unquestioned and the institution in his charge is considered one of the solidest and the safest financial concerns in the county.

Mr. Goodenow has always been interested in farming and has never allowed his interest to wander far from the vocation to which he had been reared. He has charge of the Goodenow estate, consisting of six hundred and fifty-six acres and the cultivation of which he supervises, and is the owner of a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Clinton county.

Charles Goodenow was married on February 14, 1884, to Jessie Newby, formerly of Clinton county and daughter of William Newby, who removed to Sac county from Clinton. He is the father of the following children: Mrs. Nellie Zae Garrett, of Wall Lake; Ruth, at home with her parents; Marilla, a student in the State University at Iowa City; Royal, a student in the public schools and aged thirteen years.

Politically, Mr. Goodenow is a Democrat and is pronounced in his con-



victions; fraternally, he is a Mason. For a long period of twenty-one years he has served on the city council of Wall Lake and has ever been found in the forefront in advocating public improvements; he has many warm friends and well wishers, and is one of these whole-souled, likeable fellows who are accommodating and hospitable to a high degree. Of such men are the best communities composed.

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### HUGH M. CORY.

The crowning point of a long and reasonably active life is that period when, at peace with the world and mankind and relieved of the necessity of further endeavor to obtain a livelihood, one is enabled to retire for the remaining years and await the sunset period. Life, with its struggles and disappointments, is yet ahead of the younger generation. The activities incidental to the gaining of a livelihood, and amassing a competency which enables one to enjoy a peaceful and contented old age in comfort, are matters for reminiscences of value in a work of this character. To have served one's country on the frontier of civilization and to have shouldered a musket in defense of the Union is honor sufficient to gratify the ambitions of the average human. This combination of circumstances fell to the lot of Hugh Cory, retired pioneer of Sac City, and Union veteran of the Civil War.

Hugh Cory was born January 11, 1844, on a farm in Hardin county, Ohio, the son of Francis M. and Isabelle (Hitchcock) Cory, both natives of the grand old Buckeye state.

Because of the fact that Francis M. Cory was one of the very earliest settlers of Sac county, and was known as a strong and remarkable character in many ways, considerable mention of him in these pages is necessary before we proceed further with the biography of the son, Hugh. He was born in Ohio in the year 1818, and died in Sac county in 1865. Francis was the son of Alanson Cory, who was the son of Abner Cory, a native of Scotland. Alanson emigrated to America in the latter part of the eighteenth century and entered government land in Crawford county, Ohio. He was the father of the following sons: Francis M., Abner, Hugh, Enos and Alanson. These six sons were reared to manhood on the farm in Crawford county, Ohio. Francis M. first located in Hardin county, Ohio, on attaining his majority. Hearing of the new and richer lands to the westward, he set forth on the long journey with his wife and eight children in the spring of 1854. His children were as follows: Isaac A., of Bellingham, Washington, the first





MR. AND MRS. HUGH M. CORY



teacher in Sac county; William, who died in Texas; Hugh; Harvey, who resides in North Yakima, Washington; George L., city marshal and water commissioner of Sac City; Joseph, a farmer residing at Mulhall, Oklahoma; John, proprietor of the Perkins Hotel, Plattsmouth, Nebraska; Abner, deceased; Frances, wife of J. S. Tiberghien, and who was the first white female child born in Sac county.

The Corys were part of an immigrant company of five families who became the real pioneer settlers of Sac county. These were the families of Leonard Austin, Joel Austin, Jacob McAfee, William LaGourgue and Francis Cory. The family traveled overland with two yoke of oxen by easy stages, hunting and fishing on the way, and taking in all the sights of the new and strange country through which they were passing, and enjoying the trip as a distinct novelty. Arriving within the confines of the county, they naturally selected a timbered tract, surrounding what is known as the Big Springs along the Coon river. The only inhabitants of the neighborhood at that time were scattering bands of Indians, who were on friendly terms with the white people who were soon to take away their traditional hunting grounds. Mr. Cory took up his land in what is officially known as the southeast quarter of section 36, township 88, range 36. The land was almost completely covered with heavy timber. They at once set about the hewing of logs from timber newly felled, and erected a small log cabin. Every stick and piece which went into the construction of the pioneer home was hewn out by hand. The floor was of puncheon, and much of the furniture was made by hand from branches and boards smoothed by the adz. This cabin was replaced in 1855 by a more commodious log dwelling, sixteen by eighteen feet in extent. It is said of Mr. Cory that he was a very level headed man and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the Indians with whom he traded. He made a virtue of his trading operations, and would give the Indians meal and pork in the right quantities in exchange for their furs. These he would take to Des Moines and exchange for the necessities of life. During the first winter the settlers fared exceedingly well and were happy and contented with their lot, and were of the decided opinion that their lines had fallen in pleasant places and that this section of Iowa was a second Garden of Eden in a certain sense.

Hugh recalls that on a certain occasion a band of twenty-five Indian "bucks" made a visit to his father's home from their camp on the old Wad-dell place. Mr. Cory, as was his custom, took the guns from the Indians and stacked them. He then tried to converse with their leaders. One Indian, who seemed to be the leader of the group, struck a beam with his hatchet and dipped his hand. Mr. Cory called out "Sug!" The Indians answered in

concert, "Sug." They at once began trading. Mrs. Cory frequently cooked great kettles full of corn or hominy for the Indians. This they partook of gratefully. Fish and game abounded and the Cory boys were in their natural element when hunting and fishing. Beaver dams were plentiful and the settlers easily added to their store of goods by trying their skill at trapping the fur-bearing animals, which were found in prolific numbers along the banks of the Raccoon river. Deer and elk roamed the prairies all through the timber. The Corys had a team of trained elk which were great pets. The boys, during their idle moments, trained a team which were as sensible and easily driven as a team of horses. It is recorded that the father sold this team of elks to a wandering trader for one hundred dollars. Not having the necessary cash with him, the trader gave Mr. Cory a check for the amount on a Des Moines bank. Cory set out at once on horseback for the Capital city for the purpose of cashing the check and thus securing some ready money, which was a scarce article in those days. Imagine his disappointment upon his arrival at Des Moines when he learned that the bank had failed and his check was worthless. Young Hugh and his brother George became great "shots," and frequently visited with the Indians, whom they amazed by their ability to shoot.

The principal diet of the settlers for the first few years of their occupancy of Sac county is said to have been composed of game, crab apples, and dried blackberries, which grew rapidly after fires had swept the timber slashings. Wild grapes grew prodigiously and other wild fruit were highly appreciated. Another diversion of the young fellows was the hunting down of wolves and coons after nightfall. The children wore clothing made of homespun woven on the place by the housewife, and their suspenders were made of ticking. The "fry" from the fat coons furnished a substitute for commercial lard used in the cooking and baking. According to the sons of Francis Cory, "Sac county at all times was the grandest place in the world for good feeding." Francis Cory served the county as one of its first treasurers. It is said of his wife, Isabelle Hitchcock, that she was the right kind of a mate for the pioneer, and was a typical frontierswoman. She was an excellent rifle shot, and could ride a horse or handle a yoke of oxen equally well with her sons or husband should occasion or the necessity for her doing so arise. She was born in Ohio in the year 1822 and died in Sac City in 1898.

This narrative, however, directly concerns Hugh, the third son of F. M. Cory. At the age of twenty years, he enlisted, on March 27, 1864, in Company K, Seventh Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, under Captain Cooper. His command was engaged principally in the west along the frontier. It was the duty

of the border troops during the latter years of the war to be in readiness to check threatened Indian outbreaks, and Captain Cooper's company served for one year after enlistment, keeping vigilant watch over the red men in anticipation of outbreaks. The command was concerned in several small battles and many skirmishes with roving bands of Indians, which they prevented from joining main bodies which would become formidable opponents. The object of the Federal government during the Civil war was naturally to keep the several tribes isolated from each other as far as possible, so as to prevent them from joining in a concerted campaign of attack, while the country was enduring the throes of the Rebellion. William Cory was also a soldier during the Rebellion and served with bravery and distinction as became the son of a pioneer. William and Harvey Cory served in Company A, Tenth Iowa Infantry, and were in many great battles.

After returning from the war, Hugh Cory pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of government land, but was so unfortunate as to lose possession of it in a short time. In the fall of 1867 he purchased the old family homestead. He and his wife occupied the old log cabin, where the family were reared to manhood and womanhood for a time. As his family increased, he erected a comfortable farm dwelling, which formed their home until the removal of Mr. and Mrs. Cory to Sac City in later years. This farm was held by Hugh until recently, when he disposed of it for one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. During his lifetime, or rather during his residence in Sac county, the original homestead had increased in value nearly one hundred and fifty times. The purchase price when Mr. Cory first occupied the farm directly after his marriage was twenty-five dollars an acre. This is a typical illustration of the rapid increase in the value of Iowa farm lands during the last decade. To be accurate, the Corys built their large frame house on the farm in 1893 and also built a commodious and modern barn. During their residence on the land it yielded a comfortable living for a growing family of six children, and for the last twenty years of their occupancy it gave them a substantial profit over and above living expenses, thus enabling them to start out their children in the right manner and lay by a competence for old age. During late years Mr. and Mrs. Cory have taken several trips across the country on long visits to relatives and children on the Pacific coast, but inevitably return to Sac county as the one place of residence which they prefer above all other spots on the face of the earth.

On March 15, 1867, Hugh Cory and Alice LaGourgue were united in marriage. Alice is the daughter of William LaGourgue and was born March 25, 1851, in the state of Iowa. William was a native of the island of Jamaica, and the son of French Canadian parents. He became a sailor when

Very young and followed the seat until his emigration to Ohio, in 1849, where he was married in 1850, emigrating and taking up his residence in Sac county in 1854. In September of that year he pre-empted government land in the county, and soon became a prominent figure in the organization of the county government. He was the first sheriff of Sac county.

It is stated on good authority that his daughter, Alice, has resided in Sac county for a longer period of time than any other woman now living. Her oldest brother, Horace, who died at the age of eight years, was actually the first white male child born within the borders of the county. The wife of William LaGourgue was Elizabeth Austin, a native of Canada. She was the mother of eight children: Mrs. Alice Cory; Mary (Swett), deceased in 1909; Horace, deceased; Frank, who resides at Anaheim, California; Isabel (Earnest), of South Omaha; Jane (Allsworth), of Beatrice, Nebraska; William B., a farmer in Nebraska; and Minnie (Arnold), who lives near Denver, Colorado.

William LaGourgue was born in 1822 and died in October, 1903. His wife was born July 14, 1832, and now resides at Odell, Nebraska, to which state William removed in 1875, because of the "crowded conditions" of Sac county.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cory have had a family of six children, viz.: Francis M., born in June, 1868, and is now a postoffice clerk at Bellingham, Washington. He is the father of three children, Berney, Alice and Jean. Francis was a soldier in the Spanish-American war and a member of the Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment, having served in the Philippine islands and Cuba during the periods of American occupancy. Nora (Geary), wife of William Geary, was the second child. She was born June 17, 1871, and married in 1890. She departed this life August 16, 1906, leaving three children, Merville, Iva and Hugh, who reside with their father at Bellingham, Washington. The third in order of birth is Dora, wife of Kelley Garoutt, of Heron Lake, Minnesota. She was born May 4, 1875, and is the mother of two children, Harold and Eula. Leon is the fourth, born 1885, and resides at Los Angeles, California. He is the father of one child, Leon, Jr. Next comes Ella, wife of Bert Nixon, Sac City. She was born in 1882 and has one child, Yetta. William Victor is the next living child, born 1890. He resides at Bellingham, Washington.

In politics, Mr. Cory is a Republican. He has served as school director and road supervisor. He and Mrs. Cory are stanch members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Cory is a member of the Masonic lodge, and is also a comrade of William Sherman Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

## ARTHUR SUMNER HAYDEN, M. D.

It is probable that the average professional medical practitioner sees more of the darker side of human life than any other, owing to the nature of his calling, which is to relieve suffering and to eradicate disease from mankind. He is often self-sacrificing and of necessity must be very reticent concerning the knowledge which comes into his possession; frequently he becomes the family adviser and counselor; it is he who soothes the last hours of the dying and gently leads the sick and ailing along the high road to recovery through the ministration of the remedies provided by nature and often through the exercise of his own optimism and gifts of power.

A true representative of this noblest of all professions is found in the person of Dr. Arthur S. Hayden, of the town of Wall Lake. He is a pioneer resident of Sac county, and his parents before him were pioneers. Doctor Hayden was born March 12, 1862, near Blackberry Station, now Elburn, county of Kane, Illinois. He is the son of Rev. Rufus Hayden, who was born December 10, 1819, and died December 27, 1908. His mother was Lucia Muncil, born in 1821 and died in 1900. They were both natives of Old Vermont and descendants of old New England forbears. They were reared and married in their native state and migrated to New Hampshire and thence to Auburn, New York. Rev. Rufus Hayden was a Baptist minister and by the necessity of his calling he was required to have many homes and moved about considerably. From Auburn, New York, he went to Hillsdale, Michigan, and from there to Elburn, Illinois, in the late fifties.

In the year 1864 he removed to Buchanan county, Iowa, and resided there until 1873, when he came to Sac county. For two years he preached the gospel in Sac City and then bought a farm two and one half miles south of the city. He organized Baptist churches throughout the county while engaged in farming. He was the pioneer minister of the Baptist faith in Sac county and will long be remembered by the older residents who had the opportunity of listening to his discourses from the pulpit. His was a noble task. Rev. Hayden was the father of eight children: Francilia, born in New Hampshire and died in Michigan; George, born in New Hampshire and died in Toledo in 1909; Harlan, born in Michigan and died at the age of two years; Lucian, born in Michigan and now residing at Little Rock, Arkansas; Caroline, wife of C. O. Strong, of near Sac City; Mrs. May Bayne, born in Illinois and living at Morningside, Iowa; Arthur S.; Flora, wife of Charles Swarm, born in Buchanan county, Iowa, and living in Windom, Minnesota.



Dr. Hayden was eleven years of age when his parents removed to Sac county. He received his education in the Sac City high school and the Western Normal College of Shenandoah, Iowa. He entered the State University at Iowa City and graduated from the department of homeopathy in 1896. From the time he was seventeen years of age until he attained the age of thirty he taught school in Sac county. He served as principal of the Lake View schools and the schools of Wall Lake. He began his practice in Wall Lake and has resided here over thirty years in all. He has an excellent practice and enjoys the esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Dr. Hayden was married October 16, 1886, to Ethel Baker, daughter of W. L. Baker, of Wall Lake, born near Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, August 20, 1868. In 1878 her parents and their three children moved to Sac county, where her mother and eldest brother died that same year. Her father died June 20, 1908. One brother, John E. Baker, lives at Lake View. Two children were born Dr. and Mrs. Hayden: Beulah, wife of G. A. May, M. D., of Audubon, and Harold Baker, a resident of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Arthur S. Hayden is a member of the State Hahnemann Society and the Iowa State Medical Society. Politically, he is allied with the Republican party, but is progressive in his tendencies. He has served as school director of Wall Lake and is now a member of the city council. He is affiliated with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen.

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#### WILLIAM OVERTON HOWARD.

It is a well recognized fact that the most powerful influence in shaping and controlling public life is the press. It reaches a greater number of people than any other agency and thus has always been and, in the hands of persons competent to direct it, always will be a most important factor in moulding public opinion and shaping the destiny of the nation. The gentleman to a brief review of whose life these lines are devoted is prominently connected with the journalism of northwestern Iowa and at this time is editor and publisher of the *Wall Lake Blade*, one of the most popular papers of Sac county, Iowa, comparing favorably with the best local sheets in this section of the state in news, editorial ability and mechanical execution.

William Overton Howard, the son of George Overton and Susan Fran-

ces (Seay) Howard, was born March 10, 1874, at Drakesville, Davis county, Iowa. George Howard was born in Ohio and was a shoemaker by trade. He died when William was four years of age. The mother was a native of Iowa, her parents coming originally from Tennessee. After the death of the father, Mrs. Susan Frances Howard moved to Clarinda, Iowa, to reside with her father, Rev. Isaac M. Seay, a pioneer Baptist minister of Iowa. William, who is the only living child of his parents, was reared and educated in Clarinda, and when twelve years of age entered the office of the *Page County Democrat*. He was quick to pick up the printer's trade, and by the time he was sixteen years of age had a sufficient knowledge of the business to establish the *Bradyville News*, and became the youngest publisher in the state of Iowa. Several months later young Howard entered the trade as a journeyman and spent ten years in Minnesota, where, for a time, he was in the employ of Brown & Bigelow, art calendar publishers at St. Paul. In 1908 he located at Forest City, Iowa, where he purchased the controlling interest in the *Forest City Summit*. Three years later he sold his interest in this paper and purchased the *Wall Lake Blade*, a paper which he is still publishing. He is a Progressive Republican and naturally expresses his political views in his paper. In a newspaper of this kind particular attention is always paid to local news, and his paper is recognized as one of the best and cleanest newspapers in that section of the state. He gathers all the news of importance, puts it into excellent reading form and has the necessary typographical skill to give it to his readers in good shape.

Mr. Howard was married New Year's day, 1897, to Sadie Peterson, who was a native of Norway. They were married while Mr. Howard was working in Minnesota, and to this marriage have been born three sons and one daughter: Harold Madison, born May 6, 1898; Morton Overton, born July 3, 1899; Francis Elmo, born June 22, 1901, and Ruth Mildred, born September 17, 1904.

Fraternally, Mr. Howard is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has always taken an active interest in the affairs of these fraternal organizations. He is a man of vigorous mentality and forceful expression in his paper and is never afraid to express his views upon any question which affects the welfare of his community, and always tries to make a stand on the right side of every question, and when he once makes up his mind to follow a particular policy, he sets it before his readers in clean and convincing style. He is a man of genial personality, and although he has been in the community but a short time, yet he has won a host of friends who admire him for his many good qualities of head and heart.

## HARRY I. STRAHN.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and at the same time have honored the locality to which they belong, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of him whose name forms the caption of this sketch. The qualities which have made him one of the prominent and successful men of Sac county have also brought him the esteem of his fellow men, for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods. As a business man he has evinced ability of a high order and so managed his affairs as to win large material success, while as mayor of Schaller he has so administered the affairs of the city as to earn the hearty commendation of his fellow citizens regardless of political affiliations.

Harry I. Strahn, mayor of Schaller, Iowa, and prominent real estate dealer, is a native of Sac county, having been born on a farm in Wheeler township July 6, 1875. He is a son of Nels Strahn, a native of Sweden, born 1843, who came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1873. Coming direct to Iowa from Sweden, he first located at Denison, but later secured a farm on the Sac and Crawford county lines. He came here without a dollar and at the time of his death, in 1883, he owned two hundred acres of good land. A part of this was purchased at twenty-five dollars per acre, in 1882, and was recently sold by his son for two hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. His widow, Mrs. Nellie Strahn, now resides at Kiron, Iowa. They were the parents of six children, as follows: W. M. Strahn, of Vermillion, South Dakota; H. I., the immediate subject of this sketch; O. U. Strahn, of Iroquois, South Dakota; O. E. Strahn, of Arthur, Iowa; Mrs. Lillian Amos, of St. Joseph, Missouri; Nathan Strahn, of Glasgow, Montana.

Harry I. Strahn was reared as a farmer boy and received his education in the district schools, which he attended until he was twelve years old. When sixteen years old he left the farm and took employment in a store at Arthur, Iowa, where he worked for five years for Lester & Cole. He then engaged in the mercantile business for himself at Arthur, and was there for one year, and also was in business at Moville for a like period. He spent one year at Sioux City, Iowa, and then, in 1898, removed to Ida Grove, where he lived, while employed as a traveling salesman, until 1903. He then came to Schaller, Iowa, and engaged in the grocery business for three years. In 1906 he engaged in the real estate and insurance business, in which he has been notably successful. He has had the handling of many important and valuable prop-



HARRY L. STRAHN



erties, and his judgment of land values is second to none in Sac county. He represents a number of the old-line insurance companies and does a lucrative business also in this field. In 1910 he was elected mayor of Schaller and re-elected in 1912 and 1914, which is a criterion of his popularity.

Mr. Strahn was married in 1895 to Augusta J. Danielson, of Denison, Iowa, and they have two children, Horace, aged seventeen, and Audrey, aged sixteen. Audrey graduated from the Schaller high school in 1914, with the highest honor of a class of sixteen.

Mr. Strahn is recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising citizens of the community, a man who readily gives his aid to every movement for the moral and material betterment of the town. His success has been commensurate with his enterprise and ability, and he is the owner of a fine home in Schaller, three hundred and twenty acres of land in North Dakota, a half interest in six hundred and ninety acres in Minnesota, and seven hundred acres in Florida and equities in some other properties in this vicinity, all of which is choice property.

Mr. Strahn has been, in the most significant sense, the architect of his own fortunes, and the noteworthy success which he has achieved has been entirely through his own efforts. He well exemplifies that spirit of enterprise and progressiveness that has conserved the splendid advancement of western Iowa. He has ever stood exponent of liberal and public-spirited citizenship, and commands, both personally and professionally, a high measure of popular confidence and esteem.

Politically, Mr. Strahn gives his allegiance to the Republican party. He is a member of the Methodist church, and holds membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World.

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### HENRY HOFT.

Germany has contributed more good citizens to Sac county than has any other foreign country. They are among the most substantial and enterprising people of the county. Henry Hoft is one of the large number of Germans who came to this country before the War of the Rebellion and upon the outbreak of that terrible struggle threw his heart and soul into the Union cause and fought for his adopted country with all the fervor of our native sons. He offered his services and his life, if need be, during those

dark days and after that fearful war was over he returned to habits of peace, became one of Sac county's most honored citizens and has lived more than a half century in this state and more than thirty years in Sac county.

Henry Hoft, a retired farmer of Wall Lake, Iowa, was born in Holstein, Germany, March 9, 1840. His parents, John and Katerina Hoft, were born, reared and married in their native land, coming to this country when their son, Henry, was twenty-one years of age. Before Henry Hoft came to this country with his parents in 1861, four sisters and one brother, Margaretta, Louise, Lena and August, had already settled in this state in Clinton county. Accordingly when John Hoft and wife, together with their son, Henry, came here in 1861, they settled in Clinton county.

Although Henry Hoft had been here only one year after the War of the Rebellion had begun, he enlisted for service in the Union army in August, 1862, in Company E. Twenty-sixth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, participating in the Grand Review at Washington in the summer of 1865. The regiment in which he went to the front was attached to the command of General Sherman and Mr. Hoft participated in all the battles from Chattanooga to the end of the war under Sherman's command. He passed through such terrible battles as Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Dallas, Resaca, Atlanta, the siege of Savannah and many minor skirmishes which marked Sherman's march north through the Carolinas to Johnson's final surrender in April, 1865, near Grovesboro, North Carolina. After the war was over Mr. Hoft returned to Clinton county, Iowa, and took up his trade as a carpenter.

In 1880, three years after his marriage, Mr. Hoft decided to move to Sac county, in order to take advantage of the cheap land in this county. Accordingly he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Viola township, this county, and started out to carve his fortune in this county. German citizens have always proved to be excellent farmers and Mr. Hoft is no exception to this rule. The thrift and economy which characterizes these German citizens are marked characteristics of Mr. Hoft, and as the years went by he added from time to time to his land holdings until he owned five hundred and fifty acres of land in this township. In the spring of 1910 he felt that the increasing years had made it necessary for him to retire from active farming, so he sold all but two hundred acres of his land and retired to Wall Lake to spend the remainder of his days in ease and comfort.

Mr. Hoft was married on November 8, 1866, to Betty Geise, the daughter of Peter and Katherine Geise, who were natives of Germany. Mrs. Hoft was born December 6, 1847, in Germany and came with her



parents to America in 1854. They settled at Comanche, Clinton county, this state, and were among the first settlers of that county. She was in Clinton county when the first house was built in Clinton. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoft have been born six children, Alvena, Louisa and Amel, who are all deceased; Louis, who resides on the home farm; Mrs. Clara Willhoite, of this township, and Mrs. Ella Rowedder, of Newell, Iowa.

In politics, Mr. Hoft has always adhered to the policies of the Republican party, while in his fraternal relations he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic post of Wall Lake. More than half a century has elapsed since he came to this country from Germany and his devotion to his adopted country has never been questioned in any way. Sac county is proud to honor such citizens as he, and this biographical volume is pleased to set forth in this manner the history of one who has contributed in no small way to the material, moral and educational welfare of the community.

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### HIRAM ADAMS.

Among the aged citizens of Sac county, Iowa, Hiram Adams, who is now living a retired life at Wall Lake, in this county, is deserving of particular mention in this volume. He has, in addition to his record as a successful farmer in this county, a war record which entitles him to honorable mention. Mr. Adams is a fine example of the man who follows one occupation to middle life successfully, and then changes and makes a success of a totally different occupation. Born in New York state, October 5, 1836, he lived in that state for the first twenty years of his life. His father, Samuel B. Adams, was born May 19, 1791, in New York state, and died February 27, 1864. His mother, Elizabeth (Haynes) Adams, was also a native of New York, born there on August 12, 1801, and died September 19, 1841. Neither of his parents ever left the state of New York.

In 1856 Hiram Adams left his native state and located in DuPage county, Illinois, where he followed the trade which he had learned as a youth, namely that of shoemaking. He continued to work in his chosen calling until he enlisted for service in the Union army in Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-third Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and after an honorable service in the war, he returned to Illinois and followed his trade as a shoemaker until 1880. He then left Illinois and came to Sac

county, Iowa, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Levey township, at four and one-half dollars an acre, and this land he has gradually improved and developed until it is now one of the best in the township, and he has also gradually increased his land holdings until he is now the owner of five hundred and sixty acres in this county, as well as a tract of eight hundred acres in Alberta, Canada. In 1888 he moved to Wall Lake, where he purchased a residence, which he has since remodeled into his present attractive modern home. Mr. Adams was in the mercantile business in Wall Lake for eighteen years, retiring from that business in 1906.

Mr. Adams has been twice married, his first marriage being to Frances Bigelow, on July 10, 1860, and her death occurred February 1, 1873, leaving three children: Mrs. Mary E. Crighton, who lives in Odebolt; A. J., of Sioux City, this state, and who is in the employ of a railroad company, and Francis Hiram, of California. Mr. Adams was married the second time on May 14, 1874, to Sarah Jane White, a native of Geneva, Kane county, Illinois, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amsa White. Two children were born to the second marriage, but both are now deceased.

Mr. Adams is a Progressive in politics, and has always taken more or less of an interest in political affairs. He served for several years as a justice of the peace in Illinois, and since living in Wall Lake has been the mayor of that city. He is a loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic and takes an active interest in the affairs of the local post. He has been a man of tireless energy and indomitable courage, and has won the confidence and held the unqualified esteem of his fellow citizens. He has met and encountered many obstacles along life's pathway, but now he can look back over his career and feel that no action of his has brought sorrow to any of his fellow citizens or trouble to anyone.

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### CHARLES W. DAVIS.

The records of the greater number of the successful men in most communities—and especially true is this of the western section of this great land of opportunity—show that they began their careers with practically no assets but their intelligence and brawn. It is likewise true that the self-made class of Americans make the best citizens and are essentially human and tolerant in their dealings with fellow human beings. A few there may

be who apparently deem themselves as above their station and ignore the fact that once they were poor and ambitious, but happily this class can be numbered with few numerals. Charles W. Davis, proprietor of the Wall Lake Creamery, is a self-made man of affairs who began at the bottom of the ladder without a dollar and is now one of the substantial citizens of the city and county wherein he resides.

The Wall Lake Creamery was established in 1886 and Mr. Davis has owned the plant since February 1, 1909. It is one of the largest if not the largest and most successful creamery establishment in Sac county. The average weekly output of creamery butter manufactured on the premises is fifty-two tubs, of sixty-three pounds each. The total output from July 1, 1912, to July 13, 1913, exceeded three thousand two hundred tubs. Three men are employed and the capital invested exceeds five thousand dollars. The factory is fitted with all modern equipment and there is always a ready demand for the product. In addition Mr. Davis manufactures an excellent brand of ice cream, freezing in excess of six thousand gallons in a single season. He also operates a retail ice business in connection with the creamery and places in storage about forty cars yearly. The creamery itself requires a total of ten cars during the heated season. Twelve thousand tons of ice were stored in the Davis houses during last winter and supplies the town of Wall Lake and vicinity. Over twelve hundred dollars is invested in the ice plant alone.

C. W. Davis was born June 21, 1866, in Brazil, Indiana, the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Davis, natives of Ohio. When Charles W. was an infant six months old the family removed to Middletown, Ohio, where they located on a nearby farm. Both of his parents are deceased, the mother dying at Middletown in 1888. Charles was educated in the Middletown schools and on the death of his mother left the city and went to Owensboro, Kentucky, where he was employed in a wagon factory for one year. In the fall of the same year he went to Chicago, and after a six weeks' stay in the city he located on a farm in Illinois, remaining there for two years. In March of 1890 he went to Wauconda, Illinois, and worked at farm labor for the ensuing four years. In February of 1894 he obtained employment in the Wauconda Creamery and was thus employed for nine years, becoming thoroughly proficient in butter making and skilled in the operation of the establishment. In the year 1903 he came west and located in the town of Ashton, Osceola county, and operated a creamery for six years in partnership with another gentleman, B. Kramer. He disposed of his holdings at Ashton in 1909 and invested his capital in the Wall Lake Creamery.

Mr. Davis was married May 29, 1895, at Woodstock, Illinois, to Lizzie Bacon. To them have been born two children, as follows: Edna, a graduate of the class of 1914, Wall Lake high school, and Percy, who is attending school.

Politically speaking, Mr. Davis is a Democrat. He is affiliated with the Congregational church, and, fraternally, is connected with the Masonic, Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Mystic Workers lodges. He is a Scottish Rite Mason of the thirty-second degree and is a member of the consistory at Sioux City. He is a member of the Iowa Buttermakers' Association, the Iowa Dairymen's Association and the National Creamery and Buttermakers' Association. He is proudest of all of the fact that he is president of the West Central Iowa Improvement Association. Above all things, he is what is known as a good fellow, an enterprising citizen, and a live, progressive member of the community in which he resides. He is well and favorably known throughout the country and his friends are numbered by hundreds. This brief review can not do justice to this esteemed gentleman's many many attributes, but it is an attempt to record something of the life of a man who is eminently entitled to representation in this Sac county history.

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### HENRY HASCH.

All credit should be given a man like Henry Hasch, one of the progressive farmers and substantial citizens of Wall Lake, Iowa, a man who, although interested primarily in his own affairs, manifests an abiding regard for the advancement and welfare of the community and for any measure or enterprise by which his fellow men may be benefited. All this is only the more commendable because he is not a native of "the land of the free and the home of the brave," but was reared to honor another flag and supported other forms of administrations; but since coming among us he has quickly assimilated our civilization and adopted our customs.

Henry Hasch, a prosperous, retired farmer living in Wall Lake, Iowa, was born May 5, 1840, in Holstein, Germany. His parents, Hans and Christina Hasch, were born, lived and died in Germany. Hans Hasch was a shoemaker by trade, while his son, Henry, was apprenticed to a brick layer in his youth and learned that trade before coming to America.

Henry Hasch received a good, elementary education in his native land and was an expert brick layer and plasterer when he came to this country in

1869. He first stopped in Chicago, where he worked for three months, and then made his way to Davenport, Iowa, where he worked until September, 1870, after which he removed to Cedar Rapids, this state, but shortly afterwards went to Benton county, this state, where he found plenty of work to do in his trade among the farmers of that county. Here he worked until 1873, when he married and started on his own successful career as a farmer.

The first experience of Mr. Hasch on a farm was in Benton county, Iowa, and here he worked for six years, learning the rudiments of the profession and perfecting himself in all of those details which are the necessary concomitants of the successful farmer. He saved his money and in 1879 he started to come to Sac county and invest in land. After making a careful survey of the land offered for sale in this county, he finally decided to purchase ninety-six acres in Wall Lake township, at six dollars and sixty-five cents an acre. This proved to be a fortunate investment and a few years later he felt justified in purchasing one hundred and thirteen acres of land adjoining his farm at six dollars an acre. He now had over two hundred acres of land and applied himself with true German thrift and determination to make his farm a paying proposition. He improved the farm by ditching, draining and the construction of buildings, so that he had a comfortable home in which to live. In 1901 he added another farm of two hundred acres to his land holdings, for which he had to pay forty-five dollars an acre. This two-hundred-acre farm was crossed by the railroad, which takes out twelve acres, so that his total land holdings are now three hundred and ninety-seven acres. In addition to his own farm, he purchased farms for his sons upon their marriage and has the satisfaction of knowing that they are becoming successful farmers and useful citizens of the county.

Mr. Hasch was married on December 13, 1873, to Lena Emke, who was born in Germany in 1854 and came to America in 1871. To this union there have been born eight children: Minnie, the wife of Louis Staub, a farmer in this township; William, who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Dora Melbrech, deceased; Mary, wife of John Lange, of North Dakota; Henry, deceased; August and Benjamin, who are farmers of Clinton township, this county, and Arthur, also a farmer living in this county.

In 1897 Mr. Hasch retired from active farm work and moved to Wall Lake, where he and his wife are spending their days in a comfortable home surrounded by all the modern conveniences of life. Such, in brief, is the story of one of Sac county's prosperous citizens. Coming to this country practically penniless, he has within thirty-five years risen to a position of affluence and wealth and his story but repeats what has often been said that

"where there is a will, there is a way." Mr. Hasch is a Democrat in politics and a German Lutheran in his religious affiliations. He has fully measured up to all of the standards of American citizenship and has given to his adopted country a devotion no less sincere than that of her native sons. It is needless to say that he has won the esteem and respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances, for his life has been one which has been entirely above censure.

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### C. EVERETT LEE.

There is a niche for every man in the general makeup of an American community. He who tries to fill this niche and to fit into his proper sphere is deserving of a measure of credit which none can gainsay him. If it be within his power to become of real service to the community at large, he has fulfilled his mission in life and has done his destined part in the creation of the commonwealth. He whose cognomen heads this brief narrative belongs to that great army of journalists whose lives have been dedicated to the edification of their fellowmen and whose hearts and minds are thoroughly in sympathy with the demands of their great profession. For over three decades C. Everett Lee, of Lytton, Iowa, has been engaged in newspaper work and enjoys a reputation for uprightness, ability and sterling integrity second to none in the profession.

C. Everett Lee was born in Federal City, Schoharie county, New York, June 23, 1846. His parents, William and Chloe Lee, were descendants of that hardy pioneer stock that came from England and Scotland and who played an important and glorious part in the settlement and development of the New England states. When a boy of sixteen he, in company of his mother and brother Addison and family, left the hills and mountains of the Catskills on the 12th day of March 1862, and began the long journey to Sac county, Iowa. They arrived in Sac county on April 9th of the same year, although it looked at times, when they were wading sloughs or swimming overflowed streams, as though they would never live to reach the coveted goal. They traveled via the Illinois Central railroad to the terminus, which was then at Cedar Falls. The rest of the journey was made by teams. Arriving at Sac City, Everett resided with the good mother on what is now the Frank Howard farm, one mile north of Sac City, until the fall, when he traveled by stage to Vermillion, South Dakota, then part of Dakota Territory. Here he spent the winter with an uncle and cousin, and started in to learn the printing trade





C. EVERETT LEE, DAUGHTER, GRANDDAUGHTER AND  
GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER





with Mahlon Gore, afterwards the founder of the *Sioux City Journal*. Owing to the fatal illness of his mother, it became necessary for him to return to Sac county, where he has since resided. After the death of his mother he remained with his brother, M. S. Lee, for the first three months of the summer of 1863, and received the sum of five dollars per month and his board as payment for his labor. Shortly after the 4th of July, he removed to Sac City, and entered the employ of Judge Eugene Criss for ten dollars per month and his board. He remained in Judge Criss' employ until the school term opened, with Levi Davis as teacher, when he attended school during the fall of 1863 and the winter of 1864. In January, 1864, he journeyed to Fort Dodge, for the purpose of enlisting in the Union army, but, upon final examination, he was rejected. He then returned home and again entered school. When the members of the Tenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment came home on furlough, he joined them and traveled as far as Davenport, where he again enlisted and was mustered in July 18, 1864. He served until the close of the Civil War, being mustered out of the service at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 15, 1865.

Mr. Lee embarked in the newspaper business in 1880, at Newell, Iowa, having purchased the *Newell Mirror* from J. N. Miller, then publisher of the *Sac Sun*. He published this organ until the fall of 1884, when he sold the paper to J. C. Blair, now editor of the *Early News*. Mr. Lee then went to Storm Lake and launched the *Buena Vista Vidette*, which he operated for a few years, and then purchased the *Sac County Democrat* of the Cory brothers, Isaac, H. M. and George I. Cory. After operating this plant for a few years he sold the outfit and good will to Mrs. William Allen, and engaged in the insurance business, entering the employ of the Banker's Life and the Brotherhood of American Yeoman, which business he followed a few years. In 1907 he again drifted into his favorite occupation, and is at this time editor of the *Lytton Star*, a newspaper published at Lytton, on the east line of the county.

Politically, Mr. Lee is allied with the Democratic party in Sac county, and has long held a high place in the councils of his party. He is fraternally allied with the Odd Fellows, of which organization he is one of the leading members of the county. He also belongs to the Masonic fraternity, blue lodge, chapter and commandery. He is a member of Gen. W. T. Sherman Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Lee was united in marriage with Esther Alwida Tuttle, October 5, 1865. To this union three daughters, now living, were born, namely: Eva I., wife of H. McCourt, of St. Louis, Missouri; Carrie E., wife of H. D. McLagan, of Sac City, Iowa; Ada C., wife of E. J. Eveleth, of Sac City,

Iowa. His first wife died September 6, 1872. Several years later he was married to Mrs. Mary A. Maple, of near Newell, and to this marriage two sons were born: Melitus T. and Lloyd T., both living to early manhood, when the mother and sons died within a period of two years. He was afterward married to Elizabeth C. Fox, of Sac City, and with whom he is now enjoying the last days of a life that has passed through the usual vicissitudes which fall to the average lot of mankind.

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### JOHN D. OLDSSEN.

Of the many German citizens who have cast their lot in Sac county, Iowa, and have thereby not only benefited themselves, but the general public as well, John D. Oldsen, a pioneer citizen of Clinton township, is worthy of special mention, for he has always been an honorable, upright man, industrious, temperate, economical and in every way exemplary in his daily life and conduct. He has performed well his part as a factor in the body politic and no one questions his standing as one of the leading farmers and worthy citizens of the township in which he lives.

John D. Oldsen, a retired farmer of Wall Lake, Iowa, was born April 19, 1852, in Langhorn, Germany, the son of Carsten and Susan Oldsen, who never left their native land. John Oldsen received his education in his native country and when nineteen years of age came to America and immediately went to Iowa, locating in Clinton county. At first he worked for farmers, receiving fifteen dollars a month and his board, and after being engaged in this line of work for three years he was engaged in the well-digging business for a year. In 1874 he came to Sac county, and bought two hundred acres of land at five dollars an acre. In 1877, having in the meantime married, he came back to this farm and built a house, to which he moved his family. Later he added two hundred more acres to his farm, at a cost of twenty and twenty-eight dollars an acre. He continued to reside on his farm until January 19, 1906, at which time he moved to Wall Lake, where he purchased a home and retired from active farm life. He has disposed of his land to his children and now owns only eighty acres.

Mr. Oldsen was married in 1876 in Clinton county to Anna M. Peterson, who was born in Stadeum, Germany, in 1855. Her parents, Amos and Marguerita Peterson, came to America in 1872 and settled in Clinton county, this state, after which they moved to Sac county and here they continued to

reside the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Oldsen are the parents of four children: Mrs. Sophia Tadsen, of Clinton township, this county; Carl A., a farmer and stock breeder of Clinton township; Mrs. Agnes Jensen, of Jackson township, this county, and Malinda, who is still under the parental roof.

Mr. Oldsen has identified himself with the new Progressive party, believing that the principles advocated by this party will be for the best benefit of the nation. He and the members of the family are loyal and faithful members of the Lutheran church, to which they give liberally of their time and substance. Mr. Oldsen has been a man who has believed in lending his aid to all worthy enterprises and has been known to his neighbors as an industrious and hard working man of undoubted honesty and the highest moral integrity. He has built up a reputation which shall endure for years to come, and has always exerted a beneficial influence on those about him because of his upright life.

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#### EDSON E. GOREHAM.

The biographer finds it a difficult task to adequately outline the career of a man who has led an eminently active and busy life, particularly if the subject still be numbered among the living, for it is not an easy matter to gain the proper perspective of a career still in the making. And it is, therefore, with a full appreciation of the care that is demanded and the close scrutiny to which each statement must be subjected, that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon the details of such a record as has been that of the man whose career now comes under review.

Fairhope farm, the home of E. E. Goreham, has more than a local reputation as the home of an excellent strain of Percheron draft horses. Mr. Goreham has five mares and two stallions, all thoroughbreds, and in addition has ten head of grade horses. He is an excellent judge of horses as well as other live stock, and from his stables many beautiful and valuable animals have gone out. He also breeds cattle, preferring the well bred variety, and has some graded milch animals. He also raises for the market about forty hogs annually. Mr. Goreham's home farm consists of forty acres, located in Wheeler township, Sac county, and in addition to this acreage he farms other land, making him about one hundred and sixty acres in all. All the buildings on the farm are practically new and of excellent construction.

The handsome modern home was erected in 1903 and contains eight rooms, beautifully arranged. The large barn, with all modern conveniences, has a floor space of fifty-eight by sixty-eight feet and the granary is eight by thirty-two feet. In addition to the time and attention devoted to the raising of live stock, Mr. Goreham gives equal attention to the raising of the usual crops, in which he is eminently successful. A statement of his production for the year 1913 will give a fair idea of the magnitude of the business he handles. In the season mentioned, he had twenty-three acres planted to pop-corn, which produced from twenty-five hundred to three thousand pounds to the acre; he planted forty acres to corn, producing from forty-five to fifty bushels to the acre. His oats yielded fifty bushels to the acre, thirteen acres being devoted to this crop. Fifteen acres of domestic hay were cut and the same amount of wild hay, all averaging from two to two and one-half tons to the acre. Mr. Goreham believes in the adoption of most up-to-date methods in managing such a business as his, and this fact together with the energy and enterprise with which he has been so largely endowed, have won for him the degree of success to which he has attained.

Edson E. Goreham is a native of Wheeler township, Sac county, Iowa, born on December 8, 1875, the son of J. P. Goreham, one of the earlier pioneer settlers of the county, a sketch of whose life will be found elsewhere within the covers of this book. Mr. Goreham received his earliest instruction in the district schools of Wheeler township, later attending the schools of Odebolt. He early gave his attention to farm work and has been engaged in this work in his own behalf on the location he now occupies for the past sixteen years, having taken up his residence here in 1897. On October 12, 1899, Mr. Goreham was united in marriage with Mabel J. Lester, of Odebolt, daughter of Mrs. Julia Lester. To their union have been born five children. The oldest children are twins, Doris and Dorothy, born November 20, 1902; Charlotte was born December 5, 1905; Mildred, born on September 25, 1907, and Gertrude was born November 22, 1909. The family are attendants of the Presbyterian church, of which the subject is a member. Mr. Goreham keeps well informed on current events and at the birth of the Progressive party he heartily endorsed the principles as laid down in its platform. His fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Woodmen of America, in the working of which order he takes a commendable interest.

Mr. Goreham is a member of one of the oldest families of the county, a family which has always exerted a beneficent influence on the life of the community. While primarily devoting his best energies to furthering the interests of himself and his immediate family, Mr. Goreham has ever borne

in mind the essential principles of good citizenship and has been interested in everything that made for the welfare of the community. He is one of those stalwart men of brain and substance who impress their personality forcibly upon the life of their locality. Successful in business, he also has so ordered his manner of life as to win the trust and confidence of those who know him, and he numbers his friends by the score.

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### HANS TISCHER.

The German citizens and their descendants have been large factors in the material prosperity of Sac county, Iowa, and no other nation has furnished as successful farmers and business men as has the German nation for this county. Among the successful farmers of the German nationality who have made a pronounced success in the agricultural field in this county there is no one who is deserving of more credit than Hans Tischer, retired farmer of Wall Lake, Iowa. Mr. Tischer was born July 16, 1853, in Schleswig, Germany, and is the son of John A. and Margaret (Marquard) Tischer. The Tischer family came to America in June, 1872, and located in Benton county, Iowa, where John Tischer and his wife lived the remainder of their days.

Hans Tischer received his education in his native land and on coming to this country with his parents he worked with his father on the farm in Benton county, this state, until 1881, at which time he married and went to housekeeping on an eighty-acre farm which he bought in Sac county, in Wall Lake township. After living here for a year and a half, he sold the tract and bought a farm in Bremer county, this state, where he remained for six years, at which time he sold this farm and returned to Sac county in 1889, where he purchased a half section in Clinton township, and six years later he bought another one hundred and sixty acres so that he is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land in sections 22 and 23. He continued to reside on this farm until August, 1909, when he moved to Wall Lake, where he built a handsome residence of twelve rooms. His home is one of the most beautiful in the city and is architecturally one of the handsomest in this part of the state.

Mr. Tischer was married January 17, 1881, to Antje Schulte, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Schulte, and her death occurred January 8, 1910. To this marriage were born four children: Mrs. Matilda Lenz, who

lives in Delaware township, this county; William, who is now residing on the old home farm; Mrs. Elma Eaton, of Wall Lake, and Mrs. Amanda Green, residing in Wheeler township. Mr. Tischer was married a second time on April 18, 1911, to Margaret (Godbersen) Schmidt, the widow of Eric Schmidt. Mrs. Tischer is the mother of three children by her first marriage; Mrs. Anna Mohr, of Wall Lake; Mrs. John Zein, who lives in Clinton township, this county, and Eric, of Wall Lake. Mrs. Tischer was born in Schleswig, Germany, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Godbersen. Her father died when she was a child and her mother later married Andrew Hansen. In 1873 Mr. Hansen and his wife, with his wife's children, came to America and located in Clinton county, Iowa, and in 1880 permanently settled in Sac county.

Politically, Mr. Tischer is a Democrat, but, while always upholding the principles of his party, has never gone out into the open field and taken an active part in political affairs. He and the members of his family have been loyal adherents of the Lutheran church and have interested themselves in its various activities.

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### THOMAS W. DOWN.

Sac county is the home of good farms and excellent farmers and the material prosperity of the county is due to the prosperity of the farmers. The effect of a bad season is felt on every industry in the county, while a successful farming year means prosperous times for every one else in the county. It has been said that the corn crop is the business barometer of Iowa, and this agricultural aphorism is certainly a true statement of the situation. Among Sac county's farmers who have aided in keeping this county to the front as an agricultural county there is no one more worthy of mention than Thomas W. Down, a prosperous farmer of Richland township, this county.

Thomas W. Down, the son of Thomas and Eliza (Hodge) Down, was born February 20, 1872, in Woodford county, Illinois, near El Paso. Thomas Down, Sr., was born May 4, 1824, in Highbickington, Devonshire, England. His parents were William and Elizabeth Down. Thomas Down, Sr., came to America from England in 1849 and first settled in Batavia, New York. In 1854 he came to Peoria county, Illinois, and worked as a farm laborer near Kickapoo. Later he went to El Paso in Woodford county, Illinois, and while working in this county he was married to Eliza



Hodge on January 21, 1863. She was born in Devonshire, England, October 28, 1813, and is the daughter of Richard and Mary Hodge, who came to America in 1852 and settled in Batavia, New York. In 1854 the Hodges left New York and settled in Kane county, Illinois, near Aurora. Two years later went to Iowa, but returned, however, to Illinois in 1860 and lived in Woodford county, that state, until the death of Richard Hodge, who is buried in El Paso, Illinois. Mary Hodge, the mother of Mrs. Down, died in 1846, and Richard Hodge then married Susan Land.

After Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Down, Sr., were married in 1863, they moved onto their own farm of eighty-six acres in Woodford county, Illinois, where they lived for eight years. Previous to this residence, Mr. Down had spent three years in California working in the gold and silver mines of that state and had saved enough money to purchase forty acres of his farm at twenty dollars an acre. Later he earned enough to buy forty-six acres additional. In the fall of 1873 Mr. Down came to Sac county and bought three hundred and twenty acres at five dollars and fifty cents an acre. They sold their land in Woodford county, Illinois, and moved to Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, in April, 1874. Mr. Down had to haul the lumber for his small twelve-by-sixteen home twenty miles. Mrs. Down did not like Sac county at first, so the family returned to Illinois for a time. In 1885 they moved back to Iowa, having purchased a farm one mile east of Odebolt, where they lived until 1897. They then purchased two and one-half acres near Odebolt and retired from active work. Mr. Down died February 2, 1911. He was a Republican in politics. He and his wife were loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Down, Sr., were born four children, Ada, Mary, Thomas W. and Ella E. Ada is the widow of Charles Hanson, who was accidentally killed by a falling building on February 9, 1907. Mrs. Hanson has two sons, Leslie Ernest and Morris V. Mary, the second child, was the wife of Albert Hanson, of Odebolt, Iowa. They have one daughter, Mae. Ella E., the youngest child, is the wife of Edward Hanson, a farmer of Richland township.

Thomas W. Down was two years of age when his parents came to Sac county, was educated in the district schools and in the Odebolt high school and later studied six months in the Crescent City Commercial College of Des Moines, Iowa. Upon leaving the business college, he went to work on his present farm and has lived there since 1885. He purchased his first land in 1896, has been a successful farmer and has added to his land holdings from time to time until he now owns three hundred acres of good land in section 36 in this county. He also farms one hundred and twenty acres of

his mother's land. For several years he has been a breeder of Duroc-Jersey hogs and Shorthorn cattle. He raises a large amount of live stock every year and markets annually a car load of cattle, one hundred head of hogs and a few horses.

Mr. Down was married February 19, 1896, to Emma Hanson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hanson. His wife was born in Oyster Bay, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Down are the parents of nine children: Vivian, born in December, 1896; Vernon, born in June, 1898; Lawrence, born in October, 1899; Howard, born in November, 1901; Wallace, born in December, 1903; Dorothy, born in July, 1905; Charles, born on April 1, 1907; Florence, born in May, 1909, and Helen, born in May, 1911.

Politically, Mr. Down is allied with the Progressive party, having identified himself with that new party upon its organization in the summer of 1912. He and his family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and contribute generously of their means to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Yeomen. He has been interested in the educational and moral aspects of his community and is now serving as treasurer of the township school board. Mr. and Mrs. Down have a beautiful home of ten rooms which they erected in 1909, where their friends always find a hospitable welcome.

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### GEORGE I. CORY.

In the municipalities of the United States, where the inhabitants enjoy the greatest measure of self government, we frequently find a laxity of government, owing to the attitude of those who are directly concerned in the administering of the laws made by and for the people, and a disregard of law and order in some cases by those whose duty it is to see that the laws are obeyed. Of late years, however, we are witnessing a higher and better type of civic government, owing to the awakening consciences of the American people and a more active and direct participation in the affairs of local government than has heretofore prevailed.

Sac City is extremely fortunate in this respect, inasmuch as the officials, with practically no exceptions, are men of high order of intelligence and imbued with a strict desire to attend to the duties which have been entrusted to them by the people of the community. The important position of city water commissioner and city marshal is held by a man who has lived practically his whole life within the environs of the town and vicinity. His long



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE I. CORY



term of service in this capacity is justification of the high esteem in which he is held and is direct evidence of the confidence imposed in him by the city officials and his fellow citizens. George I. Cory has served the people of Sac City ably and well, and is ambitious to perform the duties of his appointive office to the best of his ability, and that is saying that his services in both capacities are satisfactory to the majority of his fellow citizens.

The citizen and official of whom this biography is written was born in Hardin county, Ohio, November 11, 1848, the son of Francis M. and Isabelle (Hitchcock) Cory, old pioneer settlers of Sac county, of whom extended and favorable mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He was six years of age in the autumn following the arrival of the Cory family to the Cory grove, near the present site of Sac City. While very young in years, he can recall many incidents of the pioneer life of the times and personally knew the settlers of the early days.

Mr. Cory loves to tell of his school days and recalls that a man named Cromer taught the school situated about eighty rods from the Cory home. George's father was wont to hitch up the ox-team and drag a huge log through the great snow drifts on winter mornings, so as to make a pathway for the children and enable them to attend school regularly. This was absolutely necessary, as the children were actually without comfortable footwear, and shoes were a luxury unheard of in the homes of the early Sac county pioneers. George learned to hunt when very young and could trail his deer or wolf as well as the older heads. He swam the Coon river when but six years of age. The Cory boys are said to have possessed a veritable menagerie of wild animals which they had caught and tamed to domesticity. This menagerie consisted at one time of a pet coon, three coyotes, some young wolves, and two pairs of elk. The famous pair of elk, which the boys tamed and trained to harness, were known familiarly as "Aleck and Jem." "Aleck" was very smart and given to all kinds of tricks, which sometimes made him a nuisance in the neighborhood. When he was very small he would invade the camping places of the pioneers and wood choppers and, nosing out their dinner pails, would empty them and eat his fill.

George Cory resided at the paternal home until seventeen years of age, when, on August 4, 1865, he "ran away" from home with S. L. Watt, for the purpose of seeing the great world beyond Sac county. The boys succeeded in getting as far as Denison, thirty miles away, but soon became homesick and returned in October. After his mother's second marriage, George hired out by the day to work for neighboring farmers. In the summer of 1868 he

rented a tract of land from Charles Dart. He succeeded in getting a good crop, and, in 1870, he purchased forty acres of land in Coon Valley township. Prospering, he soon afterward added eighty acres to his holdings. He journeyed to the far West in 1872, and was absent for a period of thirteen months in company with Sam Watt, with whom he was employed on a western ranch in Nevada, owned by Charles McDeed. Being provident and saving, he sent his earnings home to be applied for breaking up his prairie land. On his return he traded one of his forties for a team of horses, and in the summer of 1873 was employed on the farm of J. O. Platt. Trapping and hunting was his principal diversion in winter, it being a sport which appealed to him from an enjoyable as well as commercial standpoint.

Mr. Cory was united in marriage in January, 1875, with Frances Helen Whitney, who was born August 7, 1850, in Sac City, being the first white girl born in Sac City. She was the daughter of O. F. and Martha Esther Whitney, who migrated from the state of New York in 1856. Mr. Whitney was a pioneer farmer, who also carried the mail on a star route for a number of years. O. F. Whitney died in April, 1892. His wife died October 30, 1905. Mrs. Cory has one sister, Mrs. Minnie Young, who resides on the old Whitney homestead in Cedar township.

The newly-wedded couple immediately moved into a log shanty located on their farm in Coon Valley township, and borrowed two cows. They also rented part of the farm of J. S. Tiberghien, but the grasshoppers had been in the county the year before, and George made ends meet by hauling stone during the season. He became the possessor of a fine team of two-year-old colts as the result of a bet made with Tiberghien, in which George wagered that the "hoppers" would leave the Sac county region during the season. They returned to their own place the following year and lived in a log house built "five logs on one side and seven on the other." In July of 1876 they began the erection of a really good house of two stories, also built of logs. This was later supplanted by a more pretentious frame residence. However, in 1877, the grasshoppers returned and took or ate the crops. There was nothing for them to do but go hunting for the remainder of the year, and the entire family of Corys packed up and journeyed to the wilds of Pocahontas county, buying a supply of provisions at Fonda. This hunting trip netted them four hundred dollars in hard cash. George resided on his farm until 1882, when he removed to the new town of Early, and engaged in the retail merchandise business with his brother, Joseph H. In 1884 he again returned to the farm and remained two years. He then took up a permanent residence in Sac City, and

purchased the *Sac County Democrat* in partnership with his brother Isaac. Isaac was the editor of the publication and George looked after the mechanical end with competent assistance. Later his brother, Hugh, purchased a fourth interest in the newspaper. His connection with the *Democrat* ceased in 1889, at which time he became city marshal. For the past twenty-five years he has served the people of Sac City as city marshal and deputy. His only vacation from his official duties during that time was for a period of five and one-half years, when he was again re-elected to fill the position. His last election to the office was in October of 1912. Mr. Cory was appointed city water commissioner in October, 1912, and ably performs the duties of his combined official positions. He is allied politically with the Democratic party; is an active member of the Knights of Pythias, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs. Mrs. Cory is also a member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Two children have been born to this estimable couple: Isabelle Amer, of Sac City, who is the mother of three children, Helca, Cory and Thelma; the second child is Philo, who resides in Sioux City, Iowa.

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#### AUGUST DANNENBERG.

No one can gainsay the fact that the present prosperity of Sac county, is due, in a large measure, to the enterprising Germans who have settled within its borders. Every township which has had German settlers has found them among the most enterprising and prosperous citizens of the township. The habits of thrift and industry which they have inherited through generations of ancestors in their fatherland, seem to have been so instilled into the present generation that they have no difficulty in placing themselves in the front rank of the prosperous citizens of this county.

August Dannenberg, a retired farmer of Odebolt, Iowa, was born January 24, 1841, in Hanover, Germany. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Dannenberg, and spent his boyhood days in his native land. His mother died when he was six years of age. In 1870, when nineteen years old, he came to America and first located in Will county, Illinois, where he lived three years. In 1873 he came to Lake county, Indiana, where he lived two years.

Mr. Dannenberg was married in 1875 to Katharine Buehler in Lake county, Indiana, and to this union were born two children, Mrs. Sophie Mettier, of Des Moines, Iowa, and August, Jr., whose history is presented



elsewhere in this volume. His first wife died July 15, 1878, and in March, 1879, Mr. Dannenberg was married to Mrs. Louisa (Wagoner) Rabe. She was born December 20, 1847, in Hanover, Germany, and is the daughter of Henry and Marie (Merink) Wagoner. She came to America in April of 1875, having been previously married in her own country to Henry Rabe. To this second marriage of Mr. Dannenberg have been born four children, all of whom are living: Mary, the wife of Henry Buehler, of Richland township; Rosina, the wife of H. R. Stanzel, of Odebolt; Fred, a traveling salesman of Chicago, and Edward, who is now living on his father's farm in Richland township. By her first marriage to Mr. Rabe, Mrs. Dannenberg had five children, three of whom are living: Henry, of Richland township; William F., of Cook township, and Mrs. August Reuber, of Odebolt. Mr. Rabe died in 1877.

In 1875, following his marriage in Lake county, Indiana, Mr. Dannenberg came to Sac county, Iowa, and bought two hundred acres of land for twelve dollars an acre. He had to go in debt for part of it, and within five years he had it all paid for. With this to start with, he gradually added to his possessions until he now owns about six hundred and forty acres in Richland and Clinton townships in this county. He moved to Odebolt on January 29, 1907, where he is now living surrounded with all the modern conveniences of life. Mr. Dannenberg is a fine type of the German settlers who made Sac county their home in the early history of the county. He has been identified with the history of the county for nearly forty years and in that time has seen it reach its present prosperous condition. He has taken his full share in bringing this about and while advancing his own material interests he has never lost sight of the duty which he owed to the community as a citizen of the commonwealth.

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#### HUGH H. MEAD.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tributes of admiration and respect to those whose words and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Sac county who are well known because of the part they have taken in public affairs is Hugh H. Mead.

Hugh H. Mead, a prosperous farmer, stock raiser and justice of peace of Boyer Valley township for the past twenty-five years, was born on June 1, 1864, in the state of Wisconsin. His parents, Elijah and Sarah (Hall) Mead, were natives of Vermont, who settled in Wisconsin while it was yet a territory. In 1866 the Mead family moved to Minnesota, and in 1875 to Sac county and settled on the farm where Hugh H. Mead is now residing. Elijah Mead lived on this farm until his later years, when he went to Early and lived with his daughter until his death, in May, 1906. To Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Mead were born five children: Mrs. Marie Prentice, of Louisiana; Mrs. Agnes Prentice, of Early; Hugh H., whose history is related in this narrative; Guy and Abbie, who died in childhood.

Hugh H. Mead came with his parents from Minnesota to Sac county and has lived from that time on the farm which his father bought in 1875. He received his education in the district schools of Boyer Valley township and the town school of Early. He taught in rural schools and has taken an active interest in school work. He worked with his father on the home farm until his marriage. On becoming of age he bought forty-six acres joining his father's farm, and five years later bought fifty-four acres, paying forty dollars an acre, which was the record price at that time for farming land in Sac county. He bought his father's farm before the latter's death and has recently added more so that he now has two hundred and forty acres in this township. He has taken a prominent part in the affairs of his township for the past twenty-five years, being the first to engage in raising of alfalfa. He is of a judicial temperament and since his early manhood has served as justice of the peace of his township. In fact, he has held some township office ever since he reached his majority.

Mr. Mead was married November 30, 1892, to Alice Haradon, who was born on April 23, 1865, in Bremer county, Iowa. She is the daughter of Orlin and Mary Ann (Hart) Haradon, natives of Vermont and Michigan, respectively. Her parents came to Sac county and bought land in Boyer Valley township in 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Mead have one daughter, Mary, who is now about two years of age.

Politically, Mr. Mead has long been a Republican, and has been honored time and again by his party with positions of trust and honor. He is a prominent fine stock raiser, his principal lines being Poland-China hogs, Jersey cattle and standard bred horses, having forty horses at this time. He is a tree grower and trees from his farm may now be seen on many lawns in Sac and adjoining counties. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and identify themselves with the work of their

church in this community. Mr. Mead has always been prominent in the various movements in his community which concern the public welfare and has never shirked his duty in doing what he thought would benefit his locality. His whole career in this township speaks for itself, and gives him the right to be classed among our best American citizens.

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### JAMES SHELTON STATON.

The reader's attention is now directed to a brief sketch of the life of James Shelton Staton, who for the past nine years has been superintendent of the Brookmont farm, a ranch comprising twenty-two hundred acres located in Cook and Richland townships, Sac county, Iowa, of which A. E. Cook is proprietor. In 1872 C. W. Cook, of Chicago, Illinois, came to this county, where he purchased seven thousand three hundred and sixty acres and started the ranch. However, portions of this original purchase have been sold from time to time, until the present acreage is deemed sufficient for operations by the present proprietor, son of the originator of the ranch, who has had charge of the farm for several years. The business of this ranch is considerable, and in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him as its superintendent Mr. Staton exhibits rare ability. From twenty to forty men are employed in the various departments; there are nine dwelling houses on the ranch, numerous stables and other buildings; two grain elevators, one having a capacity of one hundred thousand bushels and the other a capacity of forty thousand bushels, and ten head of thoroughbred Clydesdale draft horses are kept on the ranch, as well as seventy-five head of other horses and mules. Two thousand hogs are produced and shipped annually, five hundred head of cattle and three hundred and fifty thoroughbred Herefords are at present on the place. The year 1913 was considered an unusually light year for yields, but the production for that year, nevertheless, will give an excellent idea of the immensity of the output of this farm. There were twelve hundred acres planted to corn, which averaged forty-five bushels to the acre; five hundred acres of oats were put in which averaged fifty-two bushels to the acre; one hundred acres were planted to popcorn, producing twenty-five hundred pounds to the acre, and four hundred tons of hay were harvested. Mr. Cook also owns twenty-six hundred and forty acres of land in Monona county, this state, which is also under the care of Mr. Staton.

J. S. Staton was born on January 7, 1874, in Jackson county, this state, near Sac City, the son of James A. and Nellie Jane (Tiberghien) Staton, they being at this time the oldest married pioneer couple of Sac county. James A. Staton was born in Kentucky in 1827, was partly reared in Indiana and in 1859 came to Sac county and settled on the Raccoon river in Jackson township in the timber. Here he built a home and has resided in the vicinity of Sac City for the past fifty-five years. Nellie Jane (Tiberghien) Staton was born in 1832, the daughter of Elias Tiberghien, one of the earliest settlers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Staton have been married for more than fifty-eight years and are the parents of four children, namely: W. H. Staton, who is in Polk county, where he is proprietor of a hotel; Elias Grant is located in Sac City; M. D. Staton is in South Dakota and the other child is James Shelton, the immediate subject of this sketch.

When a youth, the subject attended the school taught by P. M. Lewis, an old-time school teacher, in the meantime assisting in the farm work of the home, in which he displayed a natural aptitude. When twenty years of age he began working for himself and has since devoted all his energies to agricultural work. On March 1, 1897, he entered the employ of A. E. Cook as a laborer and just seven years later became the superintendent of his ranch, and in 1910 assumed the management of Mr. Cook's holdings in Monona county.

In November, 1900, Mr. Staton was united in marriage with Grace Crowell, daughter of Byron Crowell, originally of New York state. To their union have been given three children, namely: Mabel Irene, aged ten years; Nellie Genevieve, aged seven years, and Willard Shelton, four years old. Mr. Staton's political affiliation is with the old-line Republican party, of which he is a staunch supporter, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a member of that society through the local lodge at Odebolt; he is also a member of the encampment and the Daughters of Rebekah.

To write the personal record of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to a position of responsibility and trust is no ordinary pleasure. Mr. Staton has attained his present position through close application to the duties that lay before him and faithfulness to trust imposed in him. In the administration of the affairs of his business he displays ability of a high order and at the same time retains the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact.

## CHARLES F. BROBEIL.

To the enlisting of men of indomitable enterprise, ability and integrity in the furtherance of her commercial activities has been due in no small measure the material prosperity of Sac county. Among the prominent factors identified with this work of progress is Charles F. Brobeil, of Lytton, who has long maintained a place of prominence and influence in the business community and who exemplifies the highest type of loyal citizenship. A man of impregnable integrity of purpose, his life has been one of consecutive endeavor, and he has realized a large and substantial success. His career as a merchant has been based upon the assumption that nothing save industry, perseverance, integrity and fidelity can lead to worthy success.

Charles F. Brobeil, who has the largest general store in Lytton, Sac county, Iowa, is a son of John Brobeil, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1847, settling in Erie, Pennsylvania. In 1852 he left Erie and came by water over the great lakes to Chicago, coming up the Chicago river and portaged to the Illinois river and down the Mississippi river to St. Louis, and thence up the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers to the city of Des Moines. Here he engaged himself in farming, carpentering and contracting. The city was then in its infancy, and he cut timber and hewed it out for building purposes. He prospered in Des Moines, and became one of the pioneers of Polk county. The family homestead in Polk county was retained in the family until March, 1912, when it was sold. John Brobeil married Wilhelmina Schull, who died when Charles F. Brobeil was ten years old. John Brobeil was born in 1821 and died in 1904. There were ten children born to the above couple, named as follows: Germand, who died at the age of fifteen years; John J., who lives at Ankney, Iowa; Mrs. Cornelia Miller, of Crocker, Iowa; William G., a retired farmer of Lytton, Iowa; Mrs. Louise Matter, of Orient, South Dakota; Mrs. Dora Kaltenbach, of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Mary Jacobs, of Des Moines, Iowa; Adam Brobeil, of Coon Valley township, Sac county, Iowa; another son is deceased.

Charles F. Brobeil was the youngest of this family of children, all of whom were born in Polk county, Iowa, except the three eldest, who were born in Erie, Pennsylvania. Charles was educated in the district schools of his community until he was fourteen years old, when he became a student at the Des Moines schools. When old enough he learned carpentering with his father. In 1882 he attended the Iowa Business College at Des Moines, paying his tuition by doing janitor work, and then found employment with a Des



CHARLES F. BROBEIL





Moines wholesale firm as bookkeeper, shipper and collector, where he remained for a short time. He then went to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and found employment, but in July, 1884, his employer transferred him to Chicago, where he spent one year, followed by a year's work on a farm. In 1887 his former employer removed to Davenport, Iowa, and Mr. Brobeil assisted him in closing out his stock, and then again went on a farm, where he worked for the next two years. In the fall of 1889 he sold his effects at public sale and removed to Crocker, Iowa, where he engaged in the mercantile business and remained eleven years, making a substantial success. He was postmaster there for four years under President Cleveland. In the fall of 1900, Mr. Brobeil came to Lytton, Sac county. He purchased a business lot where his store is now located for three hundred and twenty-five dollars. He then bought the next lot adjoining and then the third lot adjoining. The town was just starting, and he built a combined store and dwelling house. His enterprise was successful from the start, showing the wisdom of his judgment in the selection of a location, and his business ability and tact in establishing and maintaining a large and important store. In 1906 Mr. Brobeil bought a fine residence in Lytton and moved his family into it. The house is thoroughly modern throughout and the most attractive in Lytton.

Charles F. Brobeil was married in 1886 to Dora Buth, formerly of Polk county, Iowa, daughter of Franz Buth, of Orient, South Dakota. They are the parents of three children. Frank J., who was born in 1889, assists his father in the store. He was educated in the public schools, where he was a fine student, earning a free scholarship, given by the county in 1901, in Tobin College at Fort Dodge, Iowa, and also a scholarship in the University of Omaha and in Buena Vista College. He studied in Iowa Business College, completing the prescribed course and entering his father's store. Minnie K., the second child, is the wife of Frank J. Berkler, and is twenty years old. They were married in December, 1912, and live on a farm in Calhoun county, Iowa. Russell Roy is ten years old. Frank J. is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and a member of the Za-Ga-Zig Temple of Mystic Shriners at Des Moines.

Mr. Brobeil has the largest general store in Lytton. He carries a stock of groceries, dry goods, hardware and general merchandise. This stock is housed in a two-story building twenty-four by sixty feet for the main store and a one-story room, fifteen by eighty feet, for hardware stock. The upper floor of the main building is used for clothing, shoes and rubber goods. He carries an unusually large and varied stock, valued at eighteen to twenty

thousand dollars. He has another store building which he rents for an implement store. He also handles poultry and flour, having a department for each, and also one for produce and eggs. His business has grown from a small stock of goods placed in Lytton in 1900 to the largest and best assortment in the eastern part of Sac county.

Mr. Brobeil owns a half interest in a fine half section of land in Cedar township, Sac county, which is one of his best assets. He is one of the stockholders and directors of the Sac County Fair Association. Politically, he is a Democrat, and is a member of the Lytton city council and a member of the local school board. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Mystic Shrine, and attends the Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Brobeil is a member. Mr. Brobeil is a charter member of Lytton Lodge No. 336, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is past noble grand, and has been secretary of the lodge for the past seven years.

In manifold ways Mr. Brobeil has touched with effectiveness the civic and business activities of Lytton and Sac county. He possesses in marked degree the power of initiative, and his career has shown the wise application of definite subjective forces and the control of objective agencies in such a way as to obtain results of a large and appreciable value. Progressive and energetic in the management of his business affairs, he is also public spirited as a citizen and holds an enviable place in popular esteem.

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### J. F. McDONALD.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunities for acquiring experience of the best kind and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement.

J. F. McDonald, of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in the good old Hoosier state of Indiana in Fayette county, April 14, 1853. His parents, Simon and Anna (Kenna) McDonald, are both natives of the Emerald Isle, born, reared and married in the land of their nativity. They came

to New Orleans first, and after two years came to Indiana and settled in Connersville, Fayette county, where J. F. was born. In 1855 Simon McDonald and his family went to Stark county, Indiana, and two years later moved over into Jasper county, Indiana. From there they moved to Macon county, Illinois, and bought a farm and lived there the remainder of their days, Simon McDonald dying in 1891 and his widow in 1904. They reared a family of fifteen children, seven of whom are still living: J. F., whose history is portrayed in this connection; John T., of Hamilton county, Iowa; W. H., of Calhoun county, Iowa; Mrs. Mary A. Nice, of Valparaiso, Nebraska; Mrs. Clara Bigger, of Varina, Pocahontas county, Iowa; Daniel, of Beeson, Illinois; Elnora, of Rapid City, Illinois, and Isabel, who died at the age of eighteen years.

J. F. McDonald was educated in the country schools of Indiana and Illinois, and at the age of twenty-one rented a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Illinois and for the next thirty years lived on this rented farm. He made money and, what is more important, saved it, with the result that when he came to Iowa in 1896, he was able to purchase two hundred and forty acres of his present farm. He left his brother in charge of the farm and returned to Illinois, where he stayed until March, 1907. He then moved his family to Sac county, where he is still residing. He has erected a large barn and other outbuildings and has done considerable tiling. His farm is now worth at least two hundred dollars an acre. In 1913 he had one hundred and twenty acres of corn which averaged fifty bushels to the acre. His year's production of live stock included one hundred head of hogs, thirty-five head of cattle and twelve head of horses and mules.

Mr. McDonald has been twice married, his first marriage being to Mary Nice, of Illinois, in 1876. She died in December, 1894, leaving four children: S. F., of Oklahoma; J. T., of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa; Elmer, of Chicago, and Mrs. Abbie Krick, of Chicago. In 1896 Mr. McDonald was married to Minnie Terry, of Clinton, Illinois, and to this second marriage have been born two children, Rex and Donald.

While Mr. McDonald has always taken an active interest in Democratic politics, yet he has never been a seeker for any public office. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Sac City and also belongs to the chapter and commandery. His wife is a member of the Christian church and gives it her earnest and loyal support. The industry, energy and high moral traits of integrity which have characterized Mr. McDonald since he came to this county have placed him among the prominent citizens of

his locality. He has lived a life which measures up to a high standard of citizenship, and his influence has ever been on the side of light and for the best interests of his community.

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### HENRY KASTNER.

The subject of this review is one of those strong, self-reliant and determined characters who are occasionally met with and who are of such a distinct type as to seem to be born leaders of their fellow men. Not that Mr. Kastner courts that distinction, for he is entirely unassuming, but his great force of character and his zeal and energy in whatever he undertakes naturally place him at the head of the crowd. He has been a potent factor in the development of Sac county, where he has long maintained his home and where he is well known to all classes for his honorable and industrious life, in both private and public relations.

Henry Kastner, a retired farmer of Wall Lake, Sac county, Iowa, was born January 25, 1843, in Germany. His parents were Gottfried and Oreka Kastner, who came to America in 1869, settled in Benton county, Iowa, after which the mother soon died. Gottfried Kastner then went to Nebraska, where he took up a homestead and lived until his death.

Henry Kastner was reared and educated in his native country, and came to the United States in 1869, when he was twenty-six years of age. He first settled in Benton county, Iowa, where he worked for four years as a farm laborer. In 1873 he went to Crawford county, this state, where he followed farming for two years, and at the expiration of that time came to Sac county and settled in Wall Lake township, where he has since continued to reside. He first purchased one hundred and ninety-five acres of land, and later bought forty acres adjoining his first farm. He proved a very successful farmer and, with true German thrift and frugality, has been enabled to pay for his land and improve it in a way which has greatly enhanced its value. In 1913 he sold his farm at a good price and retired to Wall Lake, where he is now living a life of honorable retirement, surrounded by the comforts and conveniences which his former years of hard labor have secured for him.

Mr. Kastner was married in 1870 to Margaret Nelson, who died in 1896, and to this marriage were born eight children, all of whom are living: Mrs. Mary Henson, who lives in Holstein, Iowa; Ferdinand, of Saskatche-

wan, Canada; Mrs. Matilda Peper, of Wall Lake township, this county; William, also of Saskatchewan; Edward, of Saskatchewan; Mrs. Martha Watts, of Holstein, this state; Charles, also of Holstein; Mrs. Margaret Schotte, of Holstein. Mr. Kastner was married a second time on November 20, 1901, to Minnie (Behrens) Hausmann, who was a native of Germany, her birth having occurred in that country on September 20, 1852, and she came to America when she was twenty-six years of age in 1878, leaving Germany October 22d.

Politically, Mr. Kastner is a Democrat, but his activities have been such as to prevent him from taking an active part in the game of politics. He and the members of his family have all been staunch adherents of the German Lutheran church and have rendered it loyal service. The life which Mr. Kastner has led in this county has been characterized by honesty and sterling integrity, and for this reason he holds a high place in the estimation of his friends and neighbors.

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### JOHN G. WAGNER.

Some of the best men of broad and stalwart character are those who are self-educated very largely, and in many instances a large part of their best training came to them through the study they gave to the biographies of great men. The study of the lives of enterprising men, especially of good men, are surely instructive, acting as guides and incentive to others. They furnish examples of steady purpose and steadfast integrity which strongly illustrate what is in the power of each of us to accomplish if we will but bend every effort of our will to the attainment of some worthy aim. The instances of success in the face of difficulties would almost seem to justify the conclusion that self-reliance, with a half chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. The man whose life history is herewith outlined is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved splendid success. By a straightforward and honorable course he has won for himself a competence and takes his place among the enterprising and successful men of Sac county, Iowa, who have met success in the vocation of farming and stock raising.

John G. Wagner, a farmer of Richland township, this county, where he owns three hundred and seventy-five acres of land, is a native of Germany, born July 23, 1867, the son of George and Elizabeth Wagner. In 1885 the subject and his sister, Martha, now Mrs. Langworth, of Chicago,

Illinois, left their home in Germany and came to America, believing there were broader opportunities for them in this country than in their native land. The father came to this country and to Sac county in about 1887 and still lives here, the mother having died in Germany. When the subject first came to this country he located in Lee county, Illinois, where for eight years he worked at farm labor. In 1893 he came to Sac county and for one year worked for C. H. Rinehart. Then he rented the Helsell farm, where he lived for sixteen years. During this time he was prospering in a gratifying manner and purchasing land in various places. In 1909 he sold eighty acres of land which he owned in this county, also one hundred and sixty acres which he had in South Dakota, and purchased his present home comprising three hundred and seventy-five acres in Richland township. This land is all new, in an excellent state of cultivation and all buildings have been erected within the last few years. The dwelling is modern and commodious, convenient in every sense of the word and shelters an interesting family. At the present time, Mr. Wagner has thirty-five head of cattle and raises for the market about sixty head of hogs annually. The raising of stock is a side line with him, as he devotes most of his attention to his crops, in which he is highly successful.

Mr. Wagner was married on June 18, 1896, to Mary Weitzel and to their union have been born nine children: Elma, Esther, Arthur, Frances, Ralph, Raymond, Alice, Helen and Glenn. These young people are being carefully reared in all that is essential to noble and useful manhood and womanhood. They are members of the Reformed church and in politics Mr. Wagner is a Republican of the old school. He is a man of excellent qualities and his conduct in every relation of life has been above reproach. Such honest and industrious lives are the warp and woof of the stability of a nation and in their increasing numbers its hope for the future lies.

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#### FRANK L. DUNKIN.

Man really has but three wants on this earth, namely, food, clothing and shelter, and it is the farmer alone who is able to supply these wants. A total cessation of the agricultural interests of the United States for one year would demoralize the whole country in every way, so dependent is the nation upon the product of the farm. There can be no question but that every industry is dependent more or less upon the success of the farmer, and for this reason the farmer is rightly the bulwark of our nation.



Frank L. Dunkin, of Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa, was born on September 17, 1859, in Clinton county, Iowa, and is the son of Oliver Perry and Mary Jane (Clark) Dunkin. Oliver Perry Dunkin was born January 21, 1826, in Brown county, Ohio, and died July 2, 1907, in Sac county, Iowa. He came to Iowa while it was yet a territory, and located in Jackson county, near Maquoketa. In this county he was married, on November 12, 1854, to Mary Jane Clark, who was born March 23, 1830, in Newark, New Jersey. In her early childhood, the Clark family removed from New Jersey to New York, and subsequently to Ohio. From Ohio they came to Clinton county, Iowa, in 1853, and a year later she married Mr. Dunkin. She was a lineal descendant of Thomas Clark, who came to this country in the "Mayflower," and one of her uncles, Alvin Clark, has the honor of making the great telescopes which are used in the Lick Observatory in California and the Yerkes Observatory at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Mrs. Dunkin died February 16, 1914. Oliver P. Dunkin and wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 12, 1904. They were the parents of five children: Frank L., whose history forms the theme of this narrative; Mrs. Sarah Southwell, of McCook, Nebraska; William W., of Clinton county, this state; George S., of Clinton township, Sac county; and Fred, who died March 22, 1906.

Frank L. Dunkin was educated in the schools of Clinton county, Iowa, and also attended school after coming to this county. He was sixteen years of age when his parents came from Clinton county to Sac county and settled in Clinton township. He assisted his father on the home farm of three hundred and twenty acres until his marriage, his father giving him eighty acres of the old home place when he reached his majority. On this farm he has built a fine home and other buildings and has improved the farm in various ways.

Mr. Dunkin was married April 3, 1889, to Magdalena Angel, who was born September 5, 1865, in Germany, and came to America when she was two years of age. She was the stepdaughter of Conrad Meyer, an old resident of Odebolt. To Mr. and Mrs. Dunkin were born five children: Rose M., born March 14, 1890; Anna A., born September 3, 1891; Ida M., born December 9, 1894; Katharine S., born September 1, 1903; Oliver P., born January 3, 1906.

Politically, Mr. Dunkin is allied with the Republican party and has taken an intelligent interest in the success of his party at the polls. He has always been interested in the educational affairs of the township, and has served as school director, a position in which he was eminently well qualified to



serve. He is a charter member of the Lake View lodge of Odd Fellows, and has taken a deep interest in the affairs of this fraternal organization. Mr. Dunkin has a host of friends in his community and owing to his honesty in business and his upright social and private life, he is much admired by all who know him for his wholesome living, as well as for his interests in the various public enterprises.

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### EDWIN M. YOUNG.

The science of agriculture—for it is a science as well as an art—finds an able demonstrator as well as successful practitioner in the person of Edwin M. Young, who is widely known in Sac county, maintaining a very productive and desirable farm in Cedar township. He comes of a very highly honored family of Ohio, members of which came to this county a third of a century ago, and became substantial citizens of the state.

Edwin M. Young, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, in this county, was born March 13, 1870, in Nelsonville, Athens county, Ohio. His parents were McKindree and Susan (Sheffield) Young, both of whom were natives of Athens county, Ohio. The Young family came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1883, leaving their native state on March 13, the birthday of Edwin M., whose history is herein recorded. The Young family first settled in Jackson township, but later made their permanent residence in Cedar township, where McKindree Young died January 15, 1911, at the age of seventy-three. His wife died March 17, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. McKindree Young were the parents of four children: Mrs. Jane Martin, of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Huldah A. Baier, of Seattle, Washington; Edwin M., and one who died in infancy.

Edwin M. Young was educated in the schools of his home county in Ohio and also attended the schools in Sac county, after his parents moved to this state. Upon his mother's death, in 1892, he married and went to work on the home farm and has continued to reside there until the present time. He became the sole owner of the farm in the fall of 1905, and since then has improved the farm in many ways, and has brought it to a state of productivity where it ranks with any in his township. In 1913 he had thirty acres of corn which would average sixty bushels to the acre, a yield which is very satisfactory for this part of the state. In addition to his general farming, he also raises considerable live stock and thus adds a comfortable sum to his annual income from the farm.

Mr. Young was married April 10, 1892, to Minnie D. Whitney, the



MR. AND MRS. EDWIN M. YOUNG



daughter of Oscar F. and Martha E. Whitney, old settlers of Sac county. To this marriage have been born seven children, four of whom are living. The children, in the order of their birth, are as follows: An infant, born January 3, 1895, who lived ten days; Cecil I., born June 7, 1897; Agnes Maggie, born July 30, 1899; Lillian Fern, born October 31, 1902; Edwin Bigelow, born March 21, 1907, and Earl and Irma, twins, born January 6, 1910, deceased.

Mr. Young is a Progressive in politics and takes an active interest in the principles of the new party. He attends the Baptist church with his family and takes an earnest interest in the various organizations of the church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and the Daughters of Rebekah. Mr. Young is a man of pleasing appearance and has a host of friends throughout the community who admire him for his many good qualities.

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#### MARTIN A. MESSER.

One of the best known and enterprising of the younger generation of agriculturists of Sac county is Martin A. Messer, now in the very prime of life and usefulness, and his influence as an honorable, upright citizen is productive of much good upon all with whom he comes in contact. His past success gives assurance of something yet to come, and he is evidently destined to continue a potent factor for substantial good for many years to come. He is the owner of fine farming lands in Sac county, which he conducts in a manner that stamps him as fully abreast of the times.

Martin A. Messer, the owner of a fine section of land in Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, was born January 24, 1880, in Benton county, this state, the son of Adam and Emma (Gresie) Messer, who were both natives of Germany, who first settled in Illinois upon coming to this country. Adam Messer was a carpenter and followed that trade in Illinois for some years. He then came to Benton county, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land and in that county met his wife, Emma Gresie. In 1881 Adam Messer sold his land in Benton county and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Richland township, Sac county, and so successful was he in his agricultural operations that he was able to buy additional land from time to time until he is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Adam Messer are the parents of seven children:

Mrs. Kate Hoefling, a resident of Richland township, this county; Mrs. Minnie Sudegar, of Lyon county, Iowa; Harry, of Correctionville, this state; Charles, a resident of Jackson county, Minnesota; Pearl, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Mrs. Edna Konradi and Martin A.

Martin A. Messer was educated in the district schools of Richland township, where his parents moved when he was about one year old. When he was twenty years of age he went to Brookings county, South Dakota, and operated his father's farm in that state for five years. He then returned home and worked out for three years, moving on to his present farm March 1, 1913. He is now operating a farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is well improved in every way and one of the most productive farms of the township. His annual income from the farm is divided between his grain and stock interests. In 1913 he raised on his farm twenty-eight head of cattle, forty-six head of hogs and ten head of horses.

Mr. Messer was first married September 13, 1903, to Minnie Stanley, and to this marriage were born three children, Pearl, Iva and Ruby. Mr. Messer's second marriage occurred January 22, 1913, his wife being Ruth Mead, the daughter of Hugh H. Mead.

Politically, Mr. Messer is affiliated with the Democratic party, but has never yet been an aspirant for any political office. Religiously, his faith is that of the Presbyterian church, to which he and his wife both belong. Mr. Messer is a young farmer and has a long and prosperous career before him. With the start which he has already made, it is safe to predict that in the years to come he will be one of the most substantial farmers of the county.

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### JAMES D. ROBINSON.

Among the enterprising and progressive citizens of Sac county, Iowa, none stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than the gentleman whose career is delineated in this sketch. He has long been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in this county and the years of his residence here have but served to strengthen the feeling of admiration on the part of his fellow men owing to the honorable life he has led and the worthy example he has set the younger generation, consequently the publishers of this biographical compendium are glad to give such a worthy character representation in this work.

James D. Robinson, one of the largest landowners of Sac county, Iowa,

and now a retired resident of Schaller, was born November 17, 1858, in Winona county, Minnesota. His parents were James and Elizabeth (Braithwaite) Robinson, who came from New York state to Winona county, Minnesota, in 1856. They were among the first pioneers of that county and grew to a position of influence and prominence in that county. Mr. Robinson, Sr., died in 1899, and was one of the large landowners of his section of the state.

James D. Robinson was educated in the schools of Winona county, Minnesota, and worked on the home farm until he was twenty-two years of age. In 1880 he came to Sac county, this state, and located on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Cook township, and here he remained until 1905. Being a man of keen business ability, as well as more than ordinary agricultural capacity, he began buying and selling land shortly after coming to this county, and has continued to deal largely in land up to the present time. He left his farm and moved to Schaller in 1905, and is still making large deals in land in this county and also in other states. He is now the owner of more than one thousand acres of land in Sac county alone, besides two hundred and forty acres in Minnesota, and one hundred and sixty in Nebraska.

Mr. Robinson was married first in 1880 to Isabella French, who died in 1891, leaving him three children, Mrs. Emma Belle Hixon, of Nebraska; Gilman D'Loss, of Cook township, this county, and Guy D., of Eureka township. Mr. Robinson was married a second time on November 1, 1898, to Mrs. Mary (Bailey) Nelson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Bailey, old residents of Cook township. Mrs. Robinson was born in Moretown, Vermont, and came west with her parents to this state when she was three years of age, settling in Grinnell, Iowa, and seven years later located in Cook township, this county. Her mother, Lucy (Patrell) Bailey, was a native of Vermont and died in this state in 1905, her father dying in 1900. Mrs. Robinson had one child by her first marriage, Vivian Nelson, who is still at home. To Mr. Robinson's second marriage have been born six children: Leslie M., born October 19, 1899; Marshall, born August 13, 1903; Luella, born July 21, 1905; James, born February 4, 1911; Elizabeth, born March 7, 1912, and Woodrow, born August 25, 1913.

The political affiliations of Mr. Robinson have always been with the Democratic party, and as the candidate of his party he has been elected assessor and trustee of Cook township, this county, positions which he filled to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. Mrs. Robinson is a faithful and earnest member of the Presbyterian church, and while Mr. Robinson does not actively identify himself with any one church, yet he believes in the great value of church work and subscribes liberally to all churches in his

community. Mr. Robinson has been a man of many interests since locating in this county, and yet he has never lost sight of his duty to the body politic and has never refused to bear his share of the burden in the various public enterprises which engage the attention of his township. He is one of the representative men of his county and his career makes him eminently worthy of a place in this volume.

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#### AUGUST E. DANNENBERG.

The history of a county is the history which deals with the lives and activities of its people, especially of those who contribute to the advancement of their respective communities. There are always men in every community who are leaders in their profession. They are the men who make the real history of the county. Practically all of Sac county history has been made within the past forty years, and it is the purpose of this volume to set forth what this county has accomplished within this period of two score years. It is safe to say that no other citizens of the county have done more for the material, moral and intellectual advancement of the county than have the Germans who have chosen this county for their home.

August E. Dannenberg, a prosperous farmer of Richland township, in this county, was born July 10, 1878, in the township where he has spent his whole life. He is the son of August and Katharine (Buehler) Dannenberg, natives of Germany.

August Dannenberg was born in Germany in January, 1841, and came to America when twenty-seven years of age. He first settled in Lake county, Indiana, and later came to Sac county and purchased land in Richland township in 1874. Starting in life with practically nothing, he has become one of the largest land owners in the county, now owning four hundred acres in Richland township and two hundred and twenty-one acres in Clinton township. A few years ago he and his wife retired to Odebolt where they are now living. They are the parents of six children: Mrs. Sophie Meader, of Des Moines; August E., whose history is presented in this connection; Mrs. Mary Buehler, of Richland township; Mrs. Rosina Stanzel, the wife of H. R. Stanzel, of Odebolt; Fred, a traveling salesman, of Chicago, and Edward, who is farming on the old home farm in Richland township.

August E. Dannenberg was educated in the district school of his home neighborhood, which has the classical name of "Willow Tree College." At



the age of twenty-five he began farming for himself on his father's farm and remained there for six years. In 1909 he bought one hundred and fifteen acres at one hundred and twenty-seven and a half dollars an acre. In the fall of 1913 he sold forty acres of his farm for one hundred and sixty-six dollars an acre. He raises a number of horses annually for the market and has been successful along this line. In 1913 he had twenty-one acres of popcorn which yielded fifty-five thousand pounds. His farm is very productive and he raises other crops in proportion.

Mr. Dannenberg was married January 27, 1909, to Matilda Frevort, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frevort, of Odebolt. To this marriage have been born two children, Melvin, born January 4, 1910, and Lawrence, born July 5, 1911.

The Progressive party has claimed Mr. Dannenberg's support since its organization in the summer of 1912. He and his wife are zealous members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and are interested in the various activities of that denomination. Mr. Dannenberg takes a considerable interest in the public affairs of his community and personally gives his earnest support to such movements as he feels will upbuild his community and advance the welfare of his fellow citizens.

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### ROBERT S. ROBINSON.

An honored and substantial citizen whose successful career designates in a positive way the strength of a strong and loyal nature is R. S. Robinson, of Schaller, Iowa. To him is accorded unqualified confidence and regard, indicating popular appreciation of his worthy life and worthy deeds.

Mr. Robinson was born in the state of New York, June 15, 1856, the son of James and Elizabeth (Braithwaite) Robinson. The parents removed to Winona county, Minnesota, when R. S. was an infant, and there the father died in 1898, the mother now residing at St. Charles, Minnesota. They reared eleven children, four daughters and seven sons, named as follows: John, who lives in Louisiana; R. S., the immediate subject of this sketch; J. D., of Schaller, Iowa; Eli died at the age of five years; S. H., of Idaho; George, who lives near Minot, North Dakota; Mrs. Margaret Ann Rahmich, of South Dakota; Emma, who is deceased; Charlotte lives in Minnesota; Mrs. Pet Henry, of Winona, Minnesota.

R. S. Robinson came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1878. His father had pur-

chased in 1876 six hundred and forty acres of land in Cook township, and R. S. farmed and operated this land for a period of nineteen years. In 1897 he removed to Sac City and resided there for two years. He then removed to Nebraska, where he resided for two years on a farm that he had purchased. In 1901 he came to Schaller and has made his permanent home here since. He has been very successful in his business affairs, and is the owner of seven hundred acres of valuable and productive land in Sac and Cherokee counties. His large material success has been gained through his own good judgment and able management.

Mr. Robinson was married in 1878 to Hattie E. Whitney, of Minnesota, who is a native of New York state. Three children have been born of this marriage: James H. Robinson was killed by lightning in Nebraska in 1901, at the age of twenty-one years. Mrs. Annie E. Currie lives in Eureka township, Sac county. Opal W. is still a member of the home circle, and is now attending Rockford Academy, at Rockford, Illinois.

Politically, Mr. Robinson is a staunch and progressive Democrat, giving his unwavering support to the administrative policies of President Wilson. Fraternally, he holds membership with the Masons. He is a progressive, wide-awake citizen of the community, who willingly aids every cause for the moral and material advancement of the locality. He is a man whose years of straightforward and honest dealing have gained for him the regard of his neighbors and made him a man of distinct influence in the town and county honored by his residence.

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#### ARTHUR H. MONTGOMERY.

Diligence in every effort; faithfulness in the discharge of public duties; bravery and patriotism displayed in the service on the battlefields of the nation—these elements make for a combination of true American citizenship which can not be excelled. There are no more striking nor more venerable figures in the different communities of today than the retired Civil War veterans. The nation and posterity owe these noble heroes a debt which can never be fully paid. We can only seek to do them honor while they are yet among us. The survivors of this glorious race of fighting men who are with us yet are composed of the strongest and sturdiest of the vast armies which saved the Union from destruction. Many of them have won renown in civic life in addition to the emoluments which are theirs by right of fearless facing of death and injury on the battlefields. Of this class is Lieut. Arthur H. Montgomery, of Schaller, a native of the state of New York and an early settler of the town in which he resides.

Mr. Montgomery was born January 8, 1842, in St. Lawrence county, New York, and is the son of Hugh and Elizabeth (Elliot) Montgomery, natives of Scotland and North Ireland respectively. The mother was born and partly reared in North Ireland, the daughter of Scotch parents who first emigrated to Ireland and thence to America when she was a young lady in her teens. Hugh Montgomery was born in 1800, came to America and settled in New York state in 1822. He was a man noted for his educational attainments, having been educated for the practice of law. After settling in St. Lawrence county, New York, he followed the profession of teaching for a number of years, dying in 1858. His death orphaned three children: Arthur H.; Elliott, a resident of Canada; Mrs. Isabella Briggs, deceased.

Arthur H. received his education in the common schools of his native village, and when yet a youth of twenty he hearkened to the call of President Lincoln for troops to serve in defense of the Union. He enlisted July 25, 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-Second Volunteer Infantry Regiment of New York. He served until June 7, 1865, in the department of Virginia. He participated in many hard-fought engagements and was several times wounded in hand-to-hand conflicts. The principal battles in which this brave soldier was engaged were: Suffolk, Virginia; West Point, Virginia; Morris Island, South Carolina; Drury's Bluff, Virginia. He was wounded three times during the battle of Drury's Bluff, in the left arm, left shoulder and in the left side, and was incapacitated for some time after the battle. He was forced to lie in the hospital until the latter part of September, 1864. He received a saber wound in the left hand at the battle of Suffolk. Other battles in which he took an active part were Chapin's Farm, fought September 29, 1864, in which he was under fire continuously during the engagement, until October 27, 1864, when the second battle of Chapin's Farm was fought. He continued in service with the Army of the James until December, 1864, when he was sent to make an attack upon Fort Fisher, North Carolina, December 25, 1864. He also participated in the second attack and subsequent capture of Fort Fisher, January 16, 1865. He fought in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, in March, 1865. He was honorably discharged at Raleigh, North Carolina, June 7, 1865. Mr. Montgomery first enlisted as a private in the ranks; was soon promoted to a sergeantcy, then was made first sergeant of his company and was commissioned first lieutenant by Gov. R. E. Fenton of New York, February 17, 1865, as a fitting reward for exceptional bravery and faithfulness in the discharge of his soldier's duties. After the war he farmed in St. Lawrence county until 1881, and then came to Sac county in December of that year and settled in Eureka township. His occupation was primarily that of mechanic and ar-

tisan, with especial skill as a wagonwright. He saw an opportunity to exercise his skill in this avocation and established a wagon repair and manufacturing shop in Schaller, operating the same until 1896. It was only natural that the people should recognize his attainments in an exceptional manner, and in 1896 he was elected to the office of auditor of Sac county. He was again elected two years later and served in all four years. At the close of his term of office he returned to his home in Schaller, where he has lived a retired life, though frequently being called upon to serve the people of the community in various capacities, among them being the superintendency of the installation of the water works and sewerage systems in the city.

Mr. Montgomery has always been allied with the Republican party and has filled several civic offices in the town. He is a member of the Methodist church, and is fraternally associated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Grand Army of the Republic (Price Post), and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Mr. Montgomery's first marriage occurred February 11, 1869, to Jennie E. Hall, of Lisbon, New York, and who was his faithful wife until death intervened in 1886, leaving two children motherless, Mrs. Laura E. Jones, of Sioux City, and Richard L., who died in 1888. His second marriage was with Mattie C. Craven, of Des Moines, in 1892. Mrs. Montgomery is a native of Iowa, born at What Cheer, the daughter of Samuel and Lydia Fleming Craven, natives of Maryland and Virginia respectively. Samuel Craven died in Adams county. The mother and daughter came to Sac county, where Mrs. Montgomery taught school in Sac City from 1887 to 1891. She is well educated and a cultured and refined woman and a fitting companion for many of Mr. Montgomery's attainments and is greatly interested in church work.

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#### JOHN G. BRILL.

Possessing a genius for execution and management, John G. Brill, of Cedar township, has proven himself to be one of the ablest agriculturists of Sac county, having that quality of personality which, accompanied by unflinching determination, is bound to win, no matter what the environment of circumstances. That he is a man of sterling characteristics is shown by the fact that he came to a strange country, of strange customs, language and institutions and, starting with no capital and without the influence of friends, climbed to a commanding eminence among his fellows, winning not only material success but also the esteem of all who have known him.



JOHN G. BRILL AND FAMILY



John G. Brill, one of the most popular and substantial farmers of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in Germany July 4, 1856, and is the son of John G. and Fredericka Bertha Brill. The family came over to America in 1874, and first settled at Streator, Illinois, but a few years later located on a farm eight miles south of Streator, near Cornell, in Reading township, Livingston county, where the father bought a farm, which is now owned by his son, August, a resident of Streator. John G., Sr., died in 1904, and his widow is still living. Mr. and Mrs. John G. Brill, Sr., were the parents of a large family: Caroline, deceased in October, 1890; Augusta died in 1912 in Germany; William now lives near Streator, Illinois; Mrs. Minnie Keppleman, of South Dakota; John G.; Mrs. Paulina Riss, who lives near Streator, Illinois; Mrs. Ernestina Wheeler, of Ancona, Illinois; Bertha, deceased; August, a farmer of Streator, Illinois; Mrs. Louise Beiddige, formerly of LaGrange, Illinois, now of Oregon.

John G. Brill was educated in Germany and lived on a farm in his native land before coming to this country. After coming to Illinois with his parents, he began to work on a farm, and since 1883 has been farming on his own account. In 1887 he bought a farm in Illinois, near Earlville, LaSalle county, which he sold in 1889; then bought another, sold it, and came to Sac county and located in Cedar township in March, 1901, and purchased his present farm for fifty dollars an acre, although at that time there was nothing on it but an old house. Since taking charge of the farm in this county, he has spent over sixteen thousand dollars for buildings, drainage and various other improvements. The barn cost twenty-eight hundred dollars, the house four thousand, while his drainage alone amounted to over five thousand dollars. A modern, up-to-date corn crib which he constructed cost him six hundred dollars, while his fencing and windmills, of which he has two, brings the total up to over sixteen thousand dollars. His farm of three hundred and twenty acres is all of fine, rich soil. In 1913 he had out one hundred and ten acres of corn and the rest of his farm in various other crops with the exception of forty acres, which he rented out. He had fifteen horses, fifteen cattle and other live stock in proportion. In 1912 he lost one hundred and forty head of hogs of cholera.

Mr. Brill has been twice married, his first marriage in 1883 being to Eliza Klein, who died in 1884. There were no children by this first marriage. March 16, 1886, Mr. Brill was married to Lena Blecher, a native of Germany, born January 6, 1867, but then residing in Illinois. She was the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Blecher, who first settled in Chicago and then in Plano, Illinois, where the father died and the mother resides in Chicago. To



this second marriage of Mr. Brill have been born three children: Leopold, born September 3, 1888; Paul, born July 19, 1890, and Gertrude, born March 28, 1893.

Mr. Brill is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics, he is independent, preferring to cast his ballot for the best man, irrespective of what his politics may be. Religiously, he and wife are members of the German Lutheran church, but since there is no church of that denomination in their vicinity, they attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Sac City, of which the sons are members. Mr. Brill is an alert, friendly and obliging gentleman, who makes friends easily, and although he has been in this county but a comparatively short time, yet he has identified himself with the various interests of the community in such way as to gain a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### WILLIAM J. HOWARD.

It is the progressive, wide-awake man of affairs that makes the real history of a community, and his influence as a potential factor of the body politic is difficult to properly estimate. The example which such men furnish of patient and forceful purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is within the power of each to accomplish, and there is always full measure of satisfaction in adverting even in a casual way to their achievements and the lending of their influence in giving strength and solidity to the institutions which tell so much for the prosperity of the community. The well-known business man of whom the biographer writes in this connection has achieved distinctive success in the different spheres of effort to which his talents have been devoted, and as a citizen, interested in all that concerns the advancement of his county and the development of its resources, he deserves a deservedly conspicuous place in the esteem and confidence of the public. William J. Howard is a native of Illinois, born April 23, 1858, on a farm in La Salle county. His parents were William and Hannah (Daley) Howard, who were born, reared and married in Ireland and emigrated to America in 1851, settling on a farm in La Salle county, Illinois. William Howard died in the month of September, 1858, and the rearing of a family of four children devolved upon his widow. The children of this union were: Edward, who was killed on the railroad about the year 1877; Mrs. James W. Douglas, of Schaller, Iowa; and Mrs. Mary Knepper, of St. Louis, Missouri. The mother was married the second time and bore five children whom she reared.

W. J. Howard attended the district schools in the neighborhood in which he was reared and resided in La Salle county until he was twenty-three years of age. In 1881 he came to Sac county, equipped only with a strong constitution and an ambition to succeed and prosper with the country's growth. He located on a farm five miles southwest of the town of Schaller, in Ida county, on which he resided for one and one-half years. He then came to the new and growing town of Schaller and became a component and active part of its citizenship. He learned the art of telegraphy, but conceived a dislike to this occupation, then sought and obtained employment in the implement concern conducted by Searles & Bevelhymmer. Within a few months after entering their employ, he purchased the interest of Mr. Searles, and one and one-half years later he bought out Mr. Bevelhymmer, thus becoming the sole owner of what he has since developed into a thriving and prosperous business. He has been continuously engaged in the hardware and implement business in Schaller, with the exception of short periods when he disposed of the business to others, and again eventually repurchasing it. The mercantile establishment of Mr. Howard occupies a large building, fifty-six by eighty feet in dimension, and consisting of two floors on the main street of the city.

Mr. Howard's activities have been varied and of a very useful order during his residence in Schaller. Besides conducting his agricultural implement establishment, he has twice been engaged in the hardware business. He was one of the original promoters of the Schaller Savings Bank and owned the controlling interest for some years, which he traded eventually for land. In the fall of 1898 he assisted in the reorganization of the State Bank of Schaller, of which concern he had been a director and of which he has served as president since 1908. He also assisted in the organization of the Schaller Opera House Company, which erected the local opera house. This was a venture which has resulted in supplying the citizens with a place of amusement, but has resulted in practically no revenue for the builders, who were actuated by a patriotic desire to provide such a place for the benefit of the town rather than as a speculative undertaking. He was also one of the promoters of the Schaller Gas Light and Fuel Company. He is a Progressive Republican, with advanced ideas along the lines of popular government. Mr. Howard has served one term as school director and has been a member of the city council for a long period of sixteen years. He is keenly interested in the development and growth of his adopted city and readily lends moral and financial support to every undertaking calculated to assist in making the town a better and more comfortable place of abode for its residents.

Mr. Howard is prominently identified with several leading fraternal

societies and ranks high in the councils of the Free and Accepted Masons, Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the local blue lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights Templar and the Mystic Shriners at Des Moines, being a stockholder in the handsome Shriner building in Des Moines. Mr. Howard has filled all the official chairs in the Knights of Pythias lodge and is a member of the state grand lodge of Pythians, as well as being like connected with the grand lodge of Masons. He is also a member of the grand lodge of Odd Fellows, and is a member of the Eastern Star auxiliary of the Masonic fraternity.

During his entire experience Mr. Howard has never lost sight of the possibilities of a great increase in land values in this section of the country, and is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of lands in Ida county; three hundred and twenty acres in Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota, and seven hundred and twenty acres in Lyons county, Minnesota.

Mr. Howard was married January 28, 1886, to Mattie Hodges, daughter of John Hodges, of Jackson county. They have had three children born to them, two of whom are living: Mrs. May Skinner, of Schaller, whose husband conducts a hardware store; William, deceased; James L., who is associated with his father in the implement and vehicle business.

It is with gratification in the performance of a pleasant task that the biographer concludes this brief testimonial in behalf of this leading citizen of a beautiful and growing city, and acknowledges the fact that the foregoing lines fail to do more than common justice to the excellent and manly qualifications possessed by Mr. Howard, whose career and sterling attributes entitle him to recognition in this history of Sac county.

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### JOSEPH H. KING.

The student interested in the history of Sac county does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that Joseph H. King has long been one of its most active and leading citizens in its agricultural and stock-raising interests and that his labors have been a potent force in making this a rich agricultural region, for through several decades he has carried on general farming, gradually improving his valuable place, and while he has prospered in this he has also found time and ample opportunity to assist in the material and civic development of the county.

Joseph H. King, Jr., one of the prosperous farmers in Eureka township,

Sac county, Iowa, was born December 27, 1860, in Clayton county, Iowa, near Garnavillo. His parents were Joseph and Rosanna (Dolan) King, natives of Ohio and Ireland respectively. Joseph King, Sr., was one of the pioneer settlers of Iowa, coming to this state from Ohio in 1845 and settling in Clayton county. In 1883 the King family left Clayton county and settled in Sac county, where they bought four hundred acres in Eureka township. Here Joseph King, Sr., died in 1895, at the advanced age of eighty-two. His wife died in the fall of 1909 at the age of eighty-six. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph King, Sr., were the parents of six children, all of whom are living: John, of LaVerne, Minnesota; Charles D., of Eureka township; Mrs. John Reininger, of Eureka township; Mrs. John Meier, of Eureka township; Mary, of Schaller, and Joseph H., Jr.

Joseph H. King, Jr., was educated in the district schools of Clayton county and later took a course in Briggs Academy at Garnavillo and a course in a business college. He completed his education by attending Grinnell College for a time.

The whole life of Mr. King has been spent upon the farm with the exception of about a year when he was in the welding business. When twenty-four years of age he began to farm for himself on a farm which his father purchased for him at a cost of eight dollars an acre. Young Joseph worked three years for his father in order to pay for the land. After locating on this farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which his father had given him, he worked hard in order to add to his possessions and from time to time he was able to make a substantial addition to his original farm. He first bought out his brother on the east side of the road and after buying this eighty, he bought one hundred and twenty acres of William Kelley. Later he bought one hundred and fifty acres from Mr. Carey, which he sold in 1911 for one hundred and thirty dollars an acre. He now owns three hundred and sixty acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation and improved in such a way as to bring it up to a high state of productivity. In the summer of 1913 Mr. King erected a fine modern residence at the cost of eight thousand dollars. This beautiful sixteen-room house has its own heating and water plant and is as near modern in every way as is possible for a house to be built in that section of the state. Mr. King, in 1913, raised one hundred cattle, one hundred hogs and other stock, realizing a very handsome return from his sales of livestock.

Mr. King was married in 1891 to Matilda M. Meier, the daughter of Charles Meier and wife. To this union there have been born six children: Margaret, deceased; Josephine, who is now a junior in Grinnell College

and will graduate in the spring of 1915; Clarence, aged seventeen, who graduated from the Schaller high school in June, 1914; Harry, a sophomore in Schaller high school; Loyal a freshman in Schaller high school, and Elinor, who is now in the last year of the common schools at Schaller. Mr. and Mrs. Schaller are exceptionally proud of their children. They have given them every educational advantage with the hope that they may become useful members of society.

Mr. King is a Progressive in politics, because he believes that in the principles of the new party there is better hope for the future of the country. Religiously, he and all of his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church and render it zealous support. Mr. King has spent a life which has been worthy in every respect. He is a man who has thought to do his full duty in all the relations of life and has performed his part as a high-minded citizen in every way befitting a patriotic citizen.

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#### ALEXANDER HOVER.

Among the self-made men of Sac county, Iowa, who have arrived at their present state of prosperity solely through the work of their own hands, there is no more worthy representative than Alexander Hover, of Eden township. Left an orphan at a tender age, he has had to make his own way all his life and for this reason deserves a great amount of credit for the life he has lived.

Alexander Hover was born in New York city on April 11, 1851, and his father died when he was five years of age, while he lost his mother when he was only a babe of two years, so that when a very young lad he was left without parental care. Upon the death of his father he was placed in an orphans' home in New York city and two years later was sent to Morrison, Illinois, with Rev. J. M. Snyder, a Methodist minister. He lived with Mr. Snyder for six years, and during this time was given a good common school education and the best of care. When seventeen years of age he started out to work for himself, working by the day on farms. When twenty years of age he left the Snyder home and went to Minnesota, but in less than a year he left Minnesota and went to Clayton county, Iowa, where he lived with C. E. Angier, for whom he worked a couple of years. In 1873 Mr. Angier came to Sac county and Mr. Hover accompanied him and worked for him after he arrived here. In 1875 he worked for J. H. Angier, and in

the spring of 1876 he again started to work for C. E. Angier, with whom he remained until 1879.

Mr. Hover was married in 1880 and moved upon his present farm on April 14th of that year. He was married to Amanda Van Buskirk, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Van Buskirk, of Cedar county, this state, and to this marriage has been born one daughter, Marion, who is now with her parents.

Mr. Hover bought forty acres of land in 1876 at six dollars and seventy cents an acre, and later added forty acres, for which he paid seven dollars an acre. He purchased his last forty acres in 1893, and for this he had to pay fifty dollars an acre. This was all raw prairie land in the beginning, and Mr. Hover has cultivated and improved it until it is now a very valuable farm. He has set out many trees and has a nice grove of evergreens. He has a fine home, which was remodeled in 1904. In 1901 he built a large and commodious barn and from time to time has added good corn cribs and other outbuildings.

Although a Republican in politics, Mr. Hover has never actively identified himself with his party. Of late years Mr. Hover has retired from active farm operations and rents his land. Unlike many farmers, he prefers to live upon his farm, although he has retired from the active management of the land. Mr. Hover's career is a noteworthy one, in view of the fact that he started out penniless and has attained to his present prosperity solely through his own efforts. His life is an inspiration to the young men of the coming generation who are similarly placed at the beginning of their careers.

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### WILLIAM SEEK.

A native of Germany, a citizen of the United States and a prosperous farmer of Sac county, Iowa, is William Seek, who is now operating a three-hundred-and-ninety-seven-acre farm in Eden township, as well as performing all of those duties which characterize the citizens of this great commonwealth. He is one of the hundreds of German families of this county who have attained a definite degree of success through the exercise of those qualities of uprightness and integrity which are the uniform characteristics of the Germanic people.

William Seek was born May 16, 1845, in Germany, and is the son of Charles and Isabel (Saur) Seek. His mother died in her native land and



he came to this country in 1869, and his father, with his sister Elizabeth, came a few years later in 1872. He spent some months in the state of New York after arriving here and three months in Illinois, arriving in Clayton county, Iowa, in 1870. For four years he worked as a farm laborer in Clayton county, and in 1874 came to Eden township, Sac county, and after working on farms in this township for two years, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land at five dollars an acre. He has added to this from time to time, buying eighty acres in 1888, eighty acres in 1898 and eighty acres in 1903. He now has his farm well improved and has two sets of buildings on it.

Mr. Seek was married in 1876 to Margaret Merkley, a native of Canada and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Merkley. Michael Merkley came to Eden township, this county, in 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Seek are the parents of three children: Mrs. Louisa Chamberlain, of Eden township, who has three children, Gladys, Earl and Mabel; George, who is with his parents, and Curtis, deceased.

Mr. Seek is identified with the Republican party, but has never been an active partisan. The family are loyal and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Schaller and render it their earnest support at all times. Mr. Seek has always felt it his duty to take an active part in such enterprises of public welfare as he felt would benefit his community, and for this reason is rightly regarded as one of the representative citizens of his township.

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### JEREMIAH SHELTON TIBERGHIEH.

From the pioneer period through many decades J. S. Tiberghien has been identified with the farming interests of Sac county, and he has won for himself an honorable position in his community by his straightforward course in all phases of life's activities. He is recognized as a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of the locality along material, civic and moral lines, and is regarded by all as one of the progressive and representative men of the county.

J. S. Tiberghien was born in Indiana in 1841, where he lived until he was fourteen years of age. He is the son of Elias and Harriet Melville (Harrison) Tiberghien, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Kentucky. Elias Tiberghien was the son of Zachus Tiberghien, a native of France, who settled in Ohio in 1822, removing to Indiana and thence to Iowa, settling first in Jasper county in 1855, but removing one year later, in 1856, to Jackson





MR. AND MRS. JEREMIAH S. TIBERGHEN



township, Sac county, where he in due time became a prosperous farmer. Elias Tiberghien was born in 1810 and died in 1893. His wife, Harriet Melville Harrison, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, August 18, 1815, and died August 10, 1895. She was the daughter of Eli Harrison, who was a cousin of President Benjamin Harrison, and who fought in the War of 1812.

The children of Elias and Harriet Melville (Harrison) Tiberghien were as follows: Mrs. Nancy Slavons, deceased; Mrs. Penelope Staton, of Jackson township, Sac county; James W., a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, Sac county, and mentioned elsewhere in this volume; J. S., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Elizabeth Cory, who died April, 1911; Mrs. Mary Julia Cromer, deceased; Mrs. Helen Jepson, of North Dakota; Elias, of Sac City; Clarice Angeline, of Sac county; Eli, of Sac county.

J. S. Tiberghien was reared on the home farm, which he helped to clear, enjoying his boyhood days hunting deer, elk and small game, which was plentiful in that primitive day. He lived with his father until he was twenty-six years of age. In 1869 he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and prepared it for cultivation. December 5, 1871, he was married to Frances Cory, who was born March 16, 1856, being the first white girl born in Sac county. She was the daughter of Francis McGuire and Isabelle (Hitchcock) Cory. As a newly married couple they first lived in an old log house, but in 1884 built a large and comfortable home. To them have been born the following children: Malcolm died in infancy; Cory died at the age of twenty-eight years; Mrs. Maud (Lehman) Crundall lives on a farm near Grant City, Iowa, and is the mother of four children, Darwin, Darrell, Charles Ronley, and Francis; Ur died at the age of eleven months; Ray is a stockman in Sac county; Floy died at the age of twenty-one years; Leo is rural free delivery carrier out of Sac City, and is the father of one child, Dorothy; Lois is a teacher in the blind school at Vinton, Iowa; Claude is a bridge builder in South Dakota; Esther is a vocal music teacher, having studied four years at Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she graduated in vocal music, and now resides at home.

Mr. Tiberghien was sheriff of Sac county 1869-1871, and filled the office with credit and entire satisfaction to all. He is a member of the Methodist church, and affiliates with the Prohibition party. He has a farm of eighty-eight acres, fifty-five being in Jackson township and thirty-three acres in Cedar township. He formerly owned one hundred and sixty acres, but sold part of it in 1912.

Mr. Tiberghien is a fine specimen of that strong, virile American man-

hood that is nourished and matured on the farm. He stands over six feet, and in his youth was rated one of the finest athletes in the state. Though now in the evening of life, he is still hale and hearty, and enjoys life with the zest of a far younger man. His long residence in Sac county has given him a wide acquaintance, among whom he is held in the highest esteem for his many commendable traits of character.

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### CHARLES DORAN KING.

Conspicuous among the representative men and public-spirited citizens of Sac county is the well-known gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article. He has made his influence felt for good in his community in Eureka township, of which he was one of the organizers in 1871, being a man of sterling worth, whose life has been closely interwoven with the history of this township from the day it was organized and whose efforts have always been for the material advancement of the same, as well as for the social and moral welfare of his fellow men. The well-regulated life he has led, thereby gaining the respect and admiration of all his fellow citizens, entitles him to representation in a biographical work of the scope intended in the present work.

Charles Doran King, one of the oldest settlers in Eureka township, was born May 2, 1852, in Clayton county, Iowa. His parents were Joseph and Rosanna (Doran) King, natives of Ohio and Ireland respectively. Joseph King was of English and Irish ancestry, while his wife was of Scotch-Irish parentage. Joseph King came from Ohio to Iowa in 1845, making the trip by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, first settling near Garnavillo, in the eastern part of Iowa, six miles from the Mississippi river. He came to Sac county in 1872 and bought one section of land. In 1873 he bought a half section, this land being in Eureka township, Sac county, and here Joseph King lived the rest of his days, and at his death owned fourteen hundred acres in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph King were the parents of the following children: John, Mary, Mrs. Helen Reminger, Charles Doran and Joseph H.

Charles Doran King drove across the state of Iowa in 1875, having made a prospective trip two years earlier. The country at this time was very sparsely settled. Upon his marriage, in 1881, Charles received one hundred and sixty acres from his father, on which he now lives. He added to his

farm from time to time until he now has two hundred and forty acres of excellent land within this township. Mr. King helped organize Eureka township and was the first township clerk elected at the first election.

Mr. King was married in 1881 to Catherine Agney and to this marriage have been born three interesting daughters, all of whom have been given a college education and are now useful members of society: Agnes graduated from Buenavista College, Iowa City College and the University of Wisconsin, and is now the librarian at Madison, Wisconsin; Grace, graduated from Buenavista College and is now a Latin teacher in Portland, Oregon; Mary also graduated from Buenavista College and is now a music teacher in Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. King are justly proud of their three daughters and have taken a great deal of pride in their notable achievements.

Politically, Mr. King is a Republican and, although well informed on the public questions of the day, he has never felt inclined to take an active part in politics. He is a man of large influence and has been identified with various kinds of enterprise within his township from the date of its organization. He has seen it develop from a sparsely settled community to its present prosperous condition, and he has had a very important part in the present advanced standing of the locality.

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### WALTER W. LITTLE.

It is generally considered by those in the habit of superficial thinking that the history of so-called great men only is worthy of preservation and that little merit exists among the masses to call forth the praises of the historian or the cheers and the appreciation of mankind. A greater mistake was never made. No man is great in all things and very few are great in many things. Many by a lucky stroke achieve lasting fame, who before that had no reputation beyond the limits of their neighborhoods. It is not a history of the lucky stroke which benefits humanity most, but the long study and effort which made the lucky stroke possible. It is the preliminary work, the method, that serves as a guide for the success of others. Among those in this county who have achieved success along steady lines of action is Walter W. Little, who is now rendering efficient service as cashier of the State Bank of Early.

Walter W. Little, the present cashier of the State Bank of Early, was born September 18, 1887, on a farm near Early, Sac county, Iowa. His par-

ents are George W. and Elizabeth (Ridley) Little, who are now living in Indianola, and were among the oldest settlers of Sac county. George Little was born in New Hampshire in 1850, and moved to Canada in his youth with his parents. Later he returned to the United States and settled in Wisconsin, when about eighteen years of age, with his father, John Little. In 1870 John Little, with his wife and only son, came to Sac county, Iowa, and settled on a farm in Boyer Valley township, where they bought eighty acres of railroad land, and on this farm George W. worked for a number of years. He then came to Early and operated a grain elevator until a few years ago, when he returned to the farm. In 1907 he came to Early and in September, 1913, he moved to Indianola, where he and his wife are now living. George W. Little and wife were the parents of three children: Charles L., a veterinary surgeon of Lohrville, Iowa; Walter W., and Alice A., who is now a student at Simpson College, making a study of music.

Walter W. Little was educated in the district schools of his township and later finished his education in the schools of Early. He then entered the bank at Early as bookkeeper and was promoted to the position of assistant cashier and subsequently to that of cashier.

The State Bank of Early was first operated as a private bank and was incorporated in 1890, with S. K. Fuller as the principal stockholder. It was first known as the Bank of Early and upon its incorporation was called the Early State Bank. S. K. Fuller was the first president and was succeeded by F. S. Needham. The cashier of this institution in the order of their service have been as follows: N. O. Fuller, E. M. Fuller, J. H. McCord, G. S. Needham and Walter W. Little. The bank now has a capital stock of forty thousand dollars; deposits of two hundred and twenty thousand dollars and resources of two hundred and sixty thousand dollars. The bank owns its own brick building, which is also occupied by the postoffice, as well as another brick building which is rented for business purposes. In 1910 the institution changed its name to the State Bank of Early and increased its capital stock from thirty to forty thousand dollars. The bank is doing a prosperous business and is a financial institution which has won the confidence of the people of the community because of its sound business methods.

Mr. Little is a Republican in politics, but, owing to the nature of his profession, has never taken an active part in the game of politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Mystic Shrine at Sioux City, Iowa, and also holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Little is yet a young man and has a long and promising career before him, and it is safe to predict that prosperity

awaits him if he continues to follow the lines which he has already marked out. He is interested in the various enterprises of his town and community and is always found identified with the right side of all public questions.

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### THEODORE HUELMAN.

Iowa has the reputation of being the greatest farming state in the Union and its corn experts are known wherever corn is raised throughout the world. Professor Golden, the famous corn expert, has a reputation which extends throughout the United States, as well as those countries of Europe where corn is raised. A man of Sac county, Iowa, today who owns a farm has the best investment which money can give, and one which yields the safest returns on the investment. Sac county's farmers are as progressive as may be found in any other state in the Union and among these Theodore Huelman takes his place as one of the representative agriculturists of his county.

Theodore Huelman, of Eden township, this county, was born May 2, 1858, in Jackson county, Iowa, the son of Henry and Margaret (Anderson) Huelman, who were both natives of Germany, and who emigrated to this country early in its history. They first lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, and later removed to Galena, Illinois, where Henry Huelman worked in the lead mines of that place. From Illinois they moved to Jackson county, this state, where Henry Huelman died in 1898, and his wife a few years later. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Huelman: Mrs. Margaret Markers, who lives in Jackson county, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth Thola, who is a resident of the state of Washington; Andreas, Joseph, and Theodore, of whom this narrative speaks.

Theodore Huelman was reared and educated in the schools of Jackson county, Iowa, and was given an excellent education. He studied both German and English in the public schools, and has been a reader of the current topics of the day ever since leaving the school room. When he was twenty-three years of age he married and located in Clinton county, this state, where he remained until he came to Sac county, in 1892, when he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and he now operates this farm, together with three hundred and twenty acres, which is owned by Mrs. Huelman. He has a fine modern home, which was erected in 1906, and also good barns and outbuildings on his place, making it one of the best improved and valuable farms of the township.



Mr. Huelman was married in 1881 to Elizabeth Fink, who was a native of Wisconsin, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fink. Mrs. Huelman's father died several years ago, and her mother afterward married Henry Nurre, who resided in Clinton county, Iowa, and whose son, Joseph, came to Sac county. Joseph Nurre was one of the largest individual land owners in the county, and died some years ago in Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Huelman are the parents of two children, Joseph and Mary.

Politically, Mr. Huelman is a Democrat, but has never been fascinated by the game of politics, preferring to devote his time and energies to his agricultural interests. His family are loyal members of the Catholic church and contribute liberally of their substance to its support. Mr. Huelman is a man who attends strictly to his own affairs, and by his genial and unassuming manner has won a host of friends in the community where he has lived for the past twenty years.

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#### ELI HARADON.

One of the old patriarchs and Civil-war veterans and highly respected citizens of Sac county is Eli Haradon, who is now living a retired life on his farm in Boyer Valley township, in Sac county, Iowa. His life for many years was a strenuous one, and, whether engaged on the field of battle in defense of his country's integrity or in the more peaceful pursuits of civil life, he has ever been found faithful to his calling and today he enjoys to a notable degree the respect of his fellow citizens.

There is no more picturesque figure in the history of Sac county than Eli Haradon, who has passed his four score years, and is now patiently waiting for the final mustering in and the roll call which will terminate his long and useful career. He was born June 20, 1831, in Vermont, the son of Eli and Maria (Perkins) Haradon. In 1845 Eli Haradon, Sr., and his family left Vermont and settled on a farm near Joliet, Illinois, where Eli Haradon, Sr., and his wife died.

Eli Haradon, Jr., learned the blacksmith trade when a young man, and after the death of his parents moved to Bremer county, Iowa, in 1857, where he followed the blacksmithing trade. He married and began farming, although he still worked in his shop, and continued to live in Bremer county until his wife's death, leaving him with one daughter, Susan Ellen. After his wife's death he returned to his old home in Illinois, where he was living at the outbreak of the Civil War. On August 22, 1862, he enlisted in Com-

pany K, One Hundredth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was mustered in at Camp Irwin, Joliet, Illinois, under Capt. David Kelly and Col. F. A. Bartleson. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland in the west, and was a part of the First Brigade, Second Division and Fourth and Twentieth Corps. His career in the army was of short duration, but while it lasted it was full of severe fighting and exciting incidents. He participated in the battle of Bairdstown and Perryville in the fall of 1862 in Kentucky and in the battle at Stone River, Tennessee, in December of 1863. On January 3d, that year, he was injured by a gunshot wound in his right thigh. The company to which Mr. Haradon was attached was guarding a battery of cannon and were on the ground near the cannon one evening about sundown, when a bursting bomb partially destroyed his hearing. After the battle he was picked up off the field and taken to the hospital at Nashville, where he lay until August 3, 1863. He was then discharged on account of disability and for two years was unable to walk without the aid of crutches.

Immediately after his discharge he returned to Bremer county, Iowa, and after recuperating from his wound, rented a farm and began farming. As soon as his strength was regained he opened his blacksmith shop and followed that occupation for eight years. In the meantime he had married and in 1871 he decided to go to Kansas, where he lived for the next four years. In 1875 he came to Sac county, locating in the town of Early, when that town was started. He opened the blacksmith shop and conducted it continuously until 1901, when he retired to a farm which he had purchased in this township. He has lived on his one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm, two miles south of Early, for the past thirteen years and takes an active interest in the superintending of his place.

The second marriage of Mr. Haradon occurred in 1864, when he was united in marriage to Julia Davis, of Bremer county, Iowa. His second wife died in 1910. To this second marriage were born five children: Leslie, Ellis, Everett, Mrs. Edith Wilson and Mrs. Etna Hair. All of the children are residing in Early, except Ellis, who is on the farm with his father. Mrs. Susan Helen Bedell, Mr. Haradon's daughter by his first wife, is also living in Early.

Mr. Haradon has always identified himself with the Republican party, and has the satisfaction and honor of knowing that he was old enough to vote when John C. Fremont was the first candidate on the Republican ticket in 1856. While he has always taken an intelligent interest in the affairs of his party, yet the nature of his business has kept him from being an aspirant for any public office. He is a member of the Christian church and renders

it his zealous support at all times. He is one of the most loyal members of the Grand Army post at Early and takes a keen delight in the meetings of the post. Mr. Haradon is one of the grand old patriarchs of Sac county and a man who has lived a life singularly free from blame and censure in every way. His life has been marked by many discouragements, and yet through it all he has been optimistic and done his duty as he best saw it. He is highly honored and respected by everyone who know him, and there is probably no man in the township who has more friends than he.

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### WALDEN E. PURDY.

The pioneer settlers of Sac county enjoyed one advantage which will never come to the future settlers of this county, and that is cheap land. In the seventies there was plenty of five and ten-dollar land for sale in this county and today there are few farms which could be bought for less than one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. While the early settlers enjoyed this one advantage they suffered a number of disadvantages, and it is probably true that a farmer today can pay for his land in almost the same length of time which the farmer of thirty years ago could pay for the land at the price at which it was then purchased. The Purdy family were among the early settlers of this county, and is one of the few families in the county who are able to trace their ancestry back through three generations.

The Purdys have traced their family history in the United States back to the year 1656, when three brothers of the family came from Norway to America and settled in Vermont. One member of the family, Reverend William Purdy, settled in Pennsylvania. He became the progenitor of the Purdys who came to Sac county, Iowa. The family have been prominent in many states from the earliest history of the country. Members of the family fought in the Revolutionary War and also in the War of 1812, while a number of them were in the Civil War. Rev. William Purdy, a Baptist minister of Pennsylvania, had a son by the name of Peter, who in turn was the father of Marshall, the father of Walden E., whose history is here delineated.

Walden E. Purdy was born August 14, 1840, in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Marshall and Sally Ann (Rude) Purdy, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania. Peter Purdy, the father of Rev. William Purdy, migrated from Connecticut to Wayne county, Pennsylvania, in 1792.



WALDEN E. PARDY AND FAMILY



Marshall Purdy lived and died in Pennsylvania, dying in Wayne county in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Purdy were the parents of nine children: Newman D., Walden E., Elmer N., Mahlon D., Chester, Emeline, Lucinda, Celeste and Melissa.

Walden E. Purdy was educated in Abbington Academy in Pennsylvania and in 1861 came to Floyd county, Iowa, from his native state. The next year he bought eighty acres in this county of his father-in-law, and lived on it for the next ten years. In 1873 he came to Sac county, where he purchased ninety-seven acres at five dollars and a half an acre. This land had never been broken, and, as Mr. Purdy says, "there was nothing but prairie grass and mosquitoes" to be found on the farm. Since purchasing this farm he has added to his land holdings from time to time, until he now owns one hundred and ninety-four acres in Wall Lake township. His son has forty acres in Jackson township and eighty-seven acres in Wall Lake township, making a total of three hundred and forty-one acres in this county.

Mr. Purdy was married March 17, 1854, to Sarah A. Pelton, who was born October 23, 1842, in Lake county, Illinois. She is the daughter of Thomas and Lovilla (Graves) Pelton, natives of Tompkins and Washington counties, New York, respectively. Thomas Pelton pre-empted his land in Lake county, Illinois, and at one time had an opportunity to buy land at Chicago, but refused the opportunity. He did not realize at that time that the land would become very valuable. In 1850 the Pelton family moved to Floyd county, Iowa, where they lived the remainder of their days. Thomas Pelton was born in 1811 and died in 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pelton were the parents of two children, Susan and Sarah, the wife of Mr. Purdy. They also reared one adopted son, Frank. Mr. and Mrs. Purdy are the parents of nine children: Mrs. Carrie Platt, of Minnesota; Mrs. May Della Stanzel, of Wall Lake township; Mrs. Nettie Benson, who lives in Texas, near Galveston; Frank, at home; Mrs. Cora McClintock, of South Dakota; Mrs. Grace Jennett, deceased; Clarence, at home; Mrs. Ada Thaw, deceased, and Mrs. Vernie Ellwanger, of Wall Lake, Iowa.

Mr. Purdy is a stanch Democrat and a firm believer in the principles of his party. He and his family are all members of the Baptist church and contribute of their means to its support. Mr. Purdy is a musician of ability and has reared a family of musicians. At one time the family organized an orchestra, which was known as the Purdy orchestra. Mr. Purdy has taught a singing school since coming to this county. He is a vocal teacher of merit and because of his musical ability has taught vocal music in the Methodist



church. The family has long been recognized as one which is interested in the development of their community along such lines as would make a community a better place in which to live.

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### JOHN E. SANBORN

Among the oldest pioneers of Sac county, Iowa, is John E. Sanborn, a retired farmer of Early. His memory goes back to the time when he hauled and sold corn for ten cents a bushel and oats at the same price. He recalls the time before barns and cribs when he piled oats in his front door yard and at one time piled eight hundred bushels up until he sold it at ten cents a bushel. Mr. Sanborn is a pioneer of those days when all produce sold at ruinously low prices, and again when there were other seasons when there was nothing raised at all.

John E. Sanborn was born April 29, 1835, in New York state, and is a son of Tristram C. and Abbie (Edgerton) Sanborn. His father was a native of Maine and his mother of New York state. His parents never left New York. They reared a family of eight children: Elizabeth, George, Katie, Josephine, Mrs. Abbie E. Wright, John E., with whom this narrative deals, and Alice B. The only living children of this number are Mrs. Wright and John E. Sanborn.

In 1862 John E. Sanborn came to DeKalb county, Illinois, and located near Sycamore, where he lived for seven years on a farm. In 1869 he and another farm hand met one evening and, after talking the situation over, finally decided to come to Sac county, Iowa, and enter a homestead, and accordingly he and his friend, James Mayclam, came to Sac county and located homesteads in Boyer Valley township. They bought the first land in the township, and paid three dollars and a half an acre for it. Mr. Sanborn, J. V. Roe, James Mayclam and Alfred Hawley were the first settlers in the township. There was only one house in the township when they came there, and that was built by Nathaniel Prentice in 1869. During the winter of 1870 Mr. Sanborn returned to Illinois, but came back to Sac county in the spring and built a little house, twelve by fourteen feet in size, being compelled to haul the lumber forty-five miles from Carroll. The first year he broke about forty acres of his land, and it was some time before he had the money to get all of his land in cultivation. He lived on this farm for eight years and then sold it at a cash sale for eighteen dollars an acre.



clearing fourteen dollars and a half an acre on his investment. He then bought eighty acres near where the city of Early is now located, at a cost of ten dollars and sixty cents an acre, and six years later he sold this tract for thirty dollars an acre. Three years later this same land was sold for fifty dollars an acre and in 1913 it sold for two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. In 1884 Mr. Sanborn bought one hundred and twenty acres two miles south of Early for twenty dollars an acre and five years later sold it for thirty dollars an acre, then for three years he managed a produce wagon. In 1892 he retired from active work and settled in Early, where he has since resided.

Mr. Sanborn was married February 8, 1858, to Roby J. Bennett, of DeKalb county, Illinois, and they are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Jennie Stevens Berkey, of West Union, Iowa, and she has two daughters, Lottie and Gertrude.

Mr. Sanborn has been an independent voter and has never felt obligated to cast his ballot for the candidates of any one party. Mr. Sanborn is one of the most highly respected pioneer citizens of the county and the experiences through which he has passed since his residence here would fill a small sized volume. He is an interesting conversationalist and can tell many interesting incidents of the early days in the history of this county. His life has been singularly free from all those temptations which sometimes mar the lives of men, and his life has been as an open book, where his friends and neighbors may see his career as he has lived it.

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#### ALBERT F. LASHIER.

It is proper to judge of the success and status of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his fellow citizens. They see him at his work, in his family circle, in his church, at his devotions, hear his views on public questions, observe the outcome of his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of society and civilization and thus become competent to judge of his merits and demerits. After a long course of years of such daily observation it would be out of the question for his neighbors not to know his worth, because, as has been said, "Actions speak louder than words." In this county there is nothing heard concerning the subject of this sketch but good words. He has passed so many years here that his worth is well known, but it will be of interest to run over the busy events of his life in these pages.

Albert F. Lashier, a prominent real estate agent of Early, Iowa, was born February 11, 1861, in DeKalb county, Illinois. His parents were P. W. and Elizabeth (Hubbell) Lashier, natives of New York state. Brewer Hubbell, the father of Mrs. P. W. Lashier, drove from New York state with an ox team to DeKalb county, Illinois, and settled on a farm, where he lived for sixty-six years. P. W. Lashier was a stage driver and one of the earliest pioneers of DeKalb county, Illinois. Brewer Hubbell lived among the Indians for many years and was on friendly terms with them. In 1870, P. W. Lashier and family moved to Poweshiek county, Iowa, and four years later moved to what is now Cook township, Sac county, Iowa. At that time there were three families in Cook township, the Lashiers, the Wilsons and the Gordons. In 1876, P. W. Lashier was trustee of old Boyer Valley township, at the time Cook township was created into a congressional township, and he later served as trustee of Cook township for a number of years. P. W. Lashier moved from Cook township to Boyer Valley township, where he died November 30, 1907. He was born in 1820, and his wife, Elizabeth Hubbell, was born in 1831, and her death occurred February 19, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Lashier were the parents of four children: W. H., who lives in Colorado; Perry H., of Cook township, this county; Mrs. Ursula Douglas, of South Dakota, and Albert F.

Albert F. Lashier was thirteen years of age when his parents moved from Illinois to Iowa. He received his education in the schools of Illinois and later attended a few years in Sac county, Iowa. He remained at home and cared for his parents until he was twenty-eight years of age. He then married and bought a farm of one hundred and forty acres in Cook township, on which he lived for five years. He also owned three hundred and twenty acres east of Early, where he lived for six years. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the city of Early and lived in the city for two years, after which he returned to the farm, but in the spring of 1913 he permanently settled in Early. He has been dealing heavily in real estate for several years, handling land in Canada, Iowa and Minnesota. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Canada, three hundred and twenty acres in Montana and two hundred acres in Iowa.

Mr. Lashier was married in 1887 to Celeste Weaver, and to this marriage have been born four children, Edson, Charles H., Roe and Delmar, the last two of whom are still at home with their parents in Early.

Mr. Lashier has been a life-long Republican, and has always been interested in the local campaigns of his party. He has never held any other office than that of school director. The family are members of the Presby-

terian church, and give liberally of their substance to its support. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Personally, he possesses to an eminent degree those characteristics which gain friendship, and he is deservedly popular in the community in which he has lived for so many years.

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### EDGAR C. MERKLEY.

A farmer of today should be the most contented man in the country, since he is the only one who lives an independent career. Every other profession looks to the farmer for support and as long as the farmer is successful the country at large is prosperous. If the farmers of the United States should go on a strike and for one year refuse to raise any crops, a panic would sweep across this country which would totally demoralize every other business. In fact, it is the farmer who makes it possible for the banker, the manufacturer, the lawyer and even the minister, to live, and without the noble occupation of farming this country could not exist.

Edgar C. Merkley, a prosperous farmer of Eden township, Sac county, Iowa, was born March 28, 1861, in Ontario, Canada. His parents were William and Elizabeth (Castleman) Merkley. William Merkley was born in 1833 in Canada, where he is now living. His wife also was a native of Canada, born in 1836, and to the union of Mr. and Mrs. William Merkley were born the following children: Mrs. Eva Whittaker, who is in Canada; Mrs. Ella Castleman and Mrs. Lucy Castleman, both now residing in the state of California; Aden, also of California; Mrs. Sarah Whittaker, of Canada, and Edgar C., whose history is herewith presented.

Edgar C. Merkley was reared and educated in the schools of Canada, came to Sac county when he was twenty-two years of age, and in 1884 he moved to Eden township, where he has since resided. He has bought land from time to time in this township until he is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres in sections 20 and 30 of this township. His annual output of stock includes ninety head of cattle, one hundred head of hogs and twenty head of horses. He is the owner of a Percheron stallion and is a breeder of Percheron horses. He has a modern and attractive home and good buildings of all kinds on his farm, his place being well improved in every way.

Mr. Merkley was married January 17, 1885, to Matilda Wiley, a native of Canada, and to this marriage have been born seven children, six sons and one daughter: Merle, of Eden township; Isaac, who is in Minnesota; Mrs.

Stella Adams, whose husband is a farmer of this township; Lorne, Rosa, Vernon and Glen, the last four named being still with their parents at home.

Politically, Mr. Merkley is a Democrat, while all the family are loyal and consistent members of the Lutheran church. In his fraternal relations he is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Merkley is a man who always takes an interest in the welfare of his community and identifies himself with such enterprises as have for their object the bettering of the community in which he lives, and is regarded by all who know him with honor and esteem.

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### DAVID SHELMERDINE.

It is no small honor to be a pioneer in a new country, and this is the honor which belongs to the Shelmerdine family. David Shelmerdine is one of the few native-born farmers of this county, while his father, James, is today the oldest settler of Sac county, Iowa. This family has been closely identified with the growth of the county from its beginning, and today can look back over more than a half century of history, in which they have had no small part.

David Shelmerdine, a prosperous farmer of Boyer Valley township, this county, was born September 24, 1867, in Jackson township, about two and a half miles south of Sac City. He is the son of James and Nancy (Maulsby) Shelmerdine. In 1869 James Shelmerdine moved onto his present farm in Boyer Valley township, where his son, David, is now living. David has recently purchased forty acres of land adjoining his father's farm, for which he paid one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

James Shelmerdine, the oldest settler of Sac county, a veteran of the Civil War, a public-spirited citizen and one of the best loved old patriarchs in the county, was born in England, July 13, 1821. He is the son of William and Isabel (Brunton) Shelmerdine and was one of ten children born to his parents. When a mere youth he learned the trade of dyer and worked in the cotton mills of his native land. In 1855 he came to America, landing in New York City, where he worked in the print works near that city. In 1856 he went west and settled temporarily in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and shortly afterwards came, with Robert Browning, to Sac county and located near Sac City. At that time there was one house in Sac City, and that was a log house which was being built by Judge Eugene Criss. Here James Shelmerdine decided to locate, and secured employment from Mr. Watt, who had

a government contract for carrying the mail from Ida Grove to Sac City. He was in the performance of this duty at the opening of the Civil War, when he accidentally met a Mr. Treadway, a recruiting officer, who told him of the war and of the imperative need for men to go to the front. Although Mr. Shelmerdine had been in this county only two years, he was always attached to his adopted country, accordingly he enlisted in the Twenty-sixth Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry for the three-year service and was immediately sent to the front. He participated in the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas, December 28-29, 1862; Arkansas Post, January 11, 1863; Mill Creek, April 8-12; Jackson, May 14; siege of Vicksburg, May 18 to July 4; Jackson, July 9, 16; Brandon, July 18, 20; Dickson Station, October 20; Tuscombria, October 26; Cherokee Station, October 21; Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 23; Lookout Mountain, November 24; Mission Ridge, November 25; Ringgold, Georgia, November 27; Resaca, May 13, 16, 1864; Dallas, Georgia, May 25 to June 4; Kenesaw Mountain, June 9, 30.

In the course of the rebellion, Mr. Shelmerdine was twice wounded. At the battle of Kenesaw Mountain he was wounded in the right shoulder; in the battle of Resaca he was shot in the left knee. After being wounded at Kenesaw Mountain he was sent to a hospital in Alabama, but rapidly recovered and joined his regiment at Atlanta. He participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., in the summer of 1865, and received his final discharge at Clinton, Iowa, in the fall of that year.

At the close of the Civil War, Mr. Shelmerdine settled on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Boyer Valley township, three miles south of Early, where he lived until March, 1904, when he took up his home with his daughter, Mrs. John Anthony, at Sac City. He was married in August, 1866, to Nancy Maulsby, the daughter of David and Isabella (Case) Maulsby, of Miami county, Indiana. To this marriage have been born six children: David Simpson, Mrs. Isabel Haradon (Flora), Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Haradon, Mrs. Nancy Anthony, Arthur, deceased, and James, deceased. Mr. Shelmerdine is a member of the Gen. W. T. Sherman Grand Army post of Sac City and also a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His wife died February 16, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. John Anthony were married in Boyer Valley township February 22, 1899. John Anthony was born February 12, 1871, in Illinois, and is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Anthony, who are now residents of Early. Mr. Anthony has operated the Palm Cafe, in Sac City, since 1907, and is one of the successful business men of the town. Before engaging in this business, he was a farmer in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony

have had three children, only one of whom is living, Charles, born June 12, 1904, and Vern and James, twins, who died at the age of seven. James Shelmerdine has made his home with his son-in-law, Mr. Anthony, since March, 1905.

David Shelmerdine, the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs. James Shelmerdine, has lived for the past forty-four years on his present farm. He has made a success of his chosen vocation and is one of the most progressive farmers of his vicinity. He was married March 16, 1904, to Erminda, the daughter of Neils Nielson, who is now living in Sac City. Mr. and Mrs. Shelmerdine have one daughter, Emeline Leona, who was born August 8, 1906.

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### FRANK PILLOUD.

Among the earnest men whose enterprise and depth of character have gained a prominent place in the community and the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens is the honored subject of this sketch. A leading farmer and stock raiser of the township in which he lives and a man of decided views and laudable ambitions, his influence has ever been exerted for the advancement of his kind, and in the vocation to which his energies have been devoted he ranks among the representative agriculturists of the county.

Frank Pilloud, the son of Frank and Mary E. (Washburn) Pilloud, was born in Marshall county, Iowa, November 21, 1871. Frank Pilloud, Sr., was a native of Switzerland, born in Fribourg in 1828, and his wife was a native of Ohio. He came to America when a young man and first stopped in Cincinnati, Ohio, for some time, after which he came to Muscatine county, Iowa, and from there he went to Marshall county, this state, but later returned to Muscatine county. He then came to Sac county and bought eighty acres in Coon Valley township in 1880, and three years later he sold this tract and bought one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. In 1886 he came to Cedar township, and bought one hundred and sixty acres, and died in that township in 1888, his widow following him four years later. Four children were born to Frank and Mary Pilloud: Mrs. Vernie Strain, of Oklahoma; Mrs. Fannie Glass, of Sac City, this county, and L. C. and Frank, who are in partnership on the farm. Two children died in infancy, Lillie May, the youngest born, died at the age of one year.

Frank Pilloud, Sr., was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. He enlisted in Company E, of the Second Iowa Cavalry, October 1,





RESIDENCE OF FRANK PILLOUD





1861, for a term of three years and was discharged on the expiration of his term of service, October 3, 1864, at Davenport, Iowa. He was a sergeant of his company, and participated in the following engagements: Tiptonville, Missouri; Island Number Two, Fort Pillow, under General Pope; Hamburg, Tennessee; Glendale, Mississippi; Farmington, May 9, 1862; Booneville, May 30th; Blackland, Mississippi; second battle of Booneville, July 1st of the same year; and was in many severe skirmishes, among which were Baldwin, King's Creek, Ripley, Rienzi, the battles of Iuka and Corinth, Mississippi; Payton's Mills, Grand Junction, Hudsonville; Holly Springs; Lumkins Mills; Waterford; Tallahatchee; Water Valley; Coffeeville, and the battles around Mobile, Alabama. Other engagements in which his regiment took an active part were Palo Alto, Birmingham, Fort Chalmers, Panola, Coldwater, Jackson, Mississippi, Glendale and the evacuation of Corinth.

L. C. Pilloud, the brother of Frank, was born in Marshall county, Iowa, October 15, 1869. He began farming for himself at the age of seventeen years, and, after the death of his father, managed the home place for the mother. For the past twenty years he and his brother, Frank, have farmed in partnership, and today have one of the finest farms in this part of the county. In 1895 the brothers bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Jackson township, for which they paid thirty-six dollars and a half an acre. Three years later they added another one hundred and sixty acres at twenty-nine dollars an acre. In 1909 they purchased two hundred and forty acres which cost them eighty dollars an acre, and they are now the owners of five hundred and fourteen acres in Jackson township, ranging in value from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars an acre. The land is well tiled, well fenced and has excellent buildings of all kinds upon it. In addition to raising large crops of grain they handle large amounts of live stock each year and will average ninety head of cattle and two hundred head of hogs annually, which they place upon the market.

The brothers are both members of the Baptist church, to which they give their generous support. Politically, they are both Republicans and take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the day. Frank Pilloud was married August 30, 1909, to Ada Pearl Waisner, a native of Sac county, and a daughter of James and Martha Waisner, natives of Pennsylvania and Dallas county, Iowa, respectively, and to this union has been born one daughter, Daisy Pearl, born August 28, 1910. The brothers can be relied upon at all times to identify themselves for the support of the right side of any measure for the

welfare of the community. They are genial, hard-working men who have incorporated in their lives the sound principles of right living, and they are good examples of conscientious and patriotic American citizens.

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### GEORGE W. WADSLEY.

In past ages the history of a country was comprised chiefly in the record of its wars and conquests. Today history is largely a record of commercial activity and those whose names are foremost in the annals of the nation are those who have become leaders in business circles. The conquests now made are those of mind over matter, and the victor is he who can most successfully establish, control and operate commercial interests. Mr. Wadsley is one of the men whose lives have been an essential part of the history of Sac county, Iowa. Tireless energy, keen perception, honesty of purpose, genius for devising and executing the right thing in the right place and time are the chief characteristics of the man. These, combined with every-day common sense and guided by strong will power, are concomitants which will insure success in any undertaking.

George W. Wadsley, implement and vehicle dealer of Early, Iowa, was born August 11, 1866, in Delaware county, Iowa, the son of John L. and Ruth (Boutling) Wadsley, who were both natives of England, and were married in Canada. In 1854 John Wadsley and his family moved to a farm in Delaware county, Iowa, where they lived until his death, which occurred February 8, 1882. John Wadsley and wife were the parents of five children: C. A., of Early; L. J., of Cherokee, Iowa; Mrs. Louisa Boots, of Delaware township, in this county; George W., with whom this sketch deals, and Joseph B., of Storm Lake, Iowa.

George W. Wadsley came to Sac county with his mother, sister and brother, J. B. Wadsley, in 1885, and settled on a farm in Delaware township. Mrs. John Wadsley died in Delaware township, Sac county, February 1, 1909. George Wadsley lived on this farm for eighteen years, or until he removed to Early, in 1903. He had just passed his fifteenth year when his father died, and he had the responsibility of managing the family affairs from that time. Mr. Wadsley now owns three hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land in Delaware township. In 1904 Mr. Wadsley moved to Early and purchased an implement and vehicle business, which had been previously established. It is now located in a large building on Main street.

and comprises a large stock of goods valued at about ten thousand dollars. He carries a full line of agricultural implements and a good assortment of the vehicles which are most in common use in this neighborhood. He has built up his trade until he now has a fair share of the patronage of Early and vicinity.

Mr. Wadsley was married July 1, 1891, to Mary Gooding, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gooding, of Dubuque county, Iowa, and to this union there have been born three children, Floyd M., Walter R. and Mildred. The political affiliations of Mr. Wadsley have always been with the Republican party, and although deeply interested in the success of his party, he has never been an active participant in political life. The members of the family are all adherents of the Methodist Episcopal church of Early, and interest themselves in its various activities. Mr. Wadsley is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Wadsley, as a public-spirited citizen, has interested himself in whatever has tended to promote the welfare of Early and vicinity, and the social and moral advancement of his fellowmen.

Mr. Wadsley was a member of the town council for seven years. He has served on the school board for three years and has been re-elected for three years more.

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#### GEORGE C. STANZEL.

Inherited traits which have been transmitted from a successful parent to his son, who had followed in his father's footsteps in the pursuit of agriculture, and which have been of great assistance in determining the course for the son, are a heritage which has a greater value than noble or princely birth. All of us, as we grow older, recognize the wisdom of our fathers and, in later years, are more likely to heed admonitions long since given than while we were permitted the personal counsel and advice of the parent while on earth. A successful farmer of Sac county who has profited by the example set by an illustrious parent, and who has achieved a remarkable success of his own accord, is George C. Stanzel, of Boyer Valley township.

Mr. Stanzel is the owner of over eight hundred acres of land, consisting of several farms, as follows: Two hundred and forty acres in his home farm, which is equipped with good buildings and a modern farm residence of thirteen rooms, erected in 1903; four hundred acres in Clinton township, with fair improvements; one hundred and sixty acres, well equipped for

carrying on farming operations, in Delaware township; one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota; only recently he was the owner of over eleven hundred acres, but sold off a portion of his holdings. Mr. Stanzel, being shrewd and far seeing, deals to a considerable extent in farm lands and takes advantage of the constantly rising values. He usually buys a farm which is in need of improvements of a more substantial character than it possesses, improves it himself and then sells at an advance over the purchase price. He is an excellent farmer.

Mr. Stanzel was born August 31, 1865, in Clinton county, Iowa, and is the son of William A. and Lawrinda Roxana (Clark) Stanzel. His father was a native of Germany, born in August of 1833, and died in Sac county in January of 1911. His mother was a native of Ohio, born in March, 1842, and now a resident of Odebolt. William A. came to America when fourteen years of age and settled in the timber country of Wisconsin, near the city of Milwaukee, and moved from there to Illinois. He came to Clinton county, Iowa, in 1863 and was there married in 1864. In March, 1876, the family came to Sac county and settled in Clinton township, where William A. resided until his death in Odebolt. He died a very wealthy man and a large land owner. An extended account of the life of William A. Stanzel and his esteemed widow appears in this volume, so it is unnecessary to enlarge further concerning them in this resume.

George C. Stanzel began for himself when he attained the age of twenty-one years, and worked for his father on the home farm for one year. He then rented land of his father one year and his father gave him two hundred acres of unimproved land on certain conditions. He had made a practice of giving each son an improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, but gave George his choice in the matter, and the son selected an unimproved tract. William A. Stanzel divided in all over one thousand acres of land among his children previous to his demise, thus insuring their success.

He of whom this chronicle is written cultivated his farm for two years and improved it, after which he was employed as a canvasser and salesman for some time and gained valuable experience, which has been of considerable benefit to him as a result. He successfully sold lightning rods for several years in addition to carrying on his farming operations. On his father's retirement from the home farm to Odebolt, George C. took charge of it and tilled the three hundred and twenty acres with the assistance of his two younger brothers for one year. He then lived for one year on the Fulcher farm in Clinton township. In 1896 he removed to his farm of four

hundred acres in Clinton township. His various additions to his original farmstead are as follows: In 1887 he added eighty acres; in 1890 he bought one hundred and twenty acres more, making four hundred acres in all, which cost him an average price of thirty dollars an acre. For five years he lived in Clinton township and then moved to Boyer Valley township, where he had invested in eighty acres in 1901, to which he added one hundred and sixty acres in 1906. He secured his South Dakota land in 1912, at which time he also bought one hundred and sixty acres known as the Greenley place. Mr. Stanzel has bought and sold several farms in the meantime and practically makes a business of handling farm lands on his own account.

Mr. Stanzel was married February 19, 1894, to Carrie Fulcher, who was born February 9, 1871, in Badingham, England, the daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Reed) Fulcher. The Fulchers came to America in July, 1872, and first located in DeKalb county, Illinois, where they resided until 1895, when they removed to Sac county in the fall of the same year. The father of Mrs. Stanzel is deceased and the mother is yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Stanzel are the parents of four children, three of whom are yet living, namely: Thomas William, born March 6, 1895, and died May 4, 1902, at the age of seven years; George Albert, born March 10, 1896; Freddie, born August 26, 1903; Florence Mildred, born January 31, 1907.

Mr. Stanzel is a Republican in politics. He and his family are affiliated with the Methodist church. His only lodge is that of the Knights of Pythias, located in the town of Early. He is keen, intelligent and enterprising and is universally respected as an able and progressive citizen, who looks carefully after his own affairs, yet is not unmindful of his duties as a citizen of the county.

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### GEORGE ROSENHAUER.

Among the many German citizens of Sac county who have attained notable success in farming in this county there is no one who is entitled to more credit than George Rosenhauer, proprietor of a fine farm in Boyer Valley township. He came to this county with only a small amount of money, and has accumulated a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres and improved it in such a way as to make it one of the most attractive homes in this part of the state. His life has been full of hard work and he richly merits his present success.

George Rosenhauer was born March 31, 1854, in Kenosha county,

Wisconsin. His parents, John S. and Julia (Krause) Rosenhauer, were both natives of Germany, and came to this country early in the history of Wisconsin. John S. Rosenhauer and wife are the parents of three children: Edward, of Wisconsin; Mrs. Catherine Schaller, of Sac City, Iowa, and George, with whom this narrative deals. John Rosenhauer is still living in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, while his wife has been dead twenty years.

George Rosenhauer was reared and educated in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, and when twenty-one years of age he came to Sac county on a visit to his sister, who was then living here. He became interested in this county, and after his marriage, in 1881, he decided to permanently locate in Sac county. In the fall of 1882 he and his wife came to Sac county and spent their first winter in Sac City. They then moved on to his sister's farm in Boyer Valley township, where they lived for the next nine years. In 1891 Mr. Rosenhauer bought one hundred and sixty acres in Boyer Valley township, which he later traded for his present farm. He now has a farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres in Boyer Valley township, which is a model farm in every way. He has two large barns, fifty-six by seventy-six and thirty-six by forty-eight feet in size. The interesting thing about his barns is the fact that they are electrically equipped, having electricity for both light and power. There is a flowing spring on his former farm, which gives him a never-failing supply of water, and this one feature itself is worth the price of many acres of land. He has a beautiful and attractive home, one and one-half miles south of Early, which will compare favorably with any of the city homes as far as modern conveniences is concerned. He has been a successful farmer because he has used the best methods in cultivating the soil and raising his stock.

Mr. Rosenhauer was married January 10, 1881, at Burlington, Wisconsin, to Anna Grass. To this marriage have been born six children: Elmer, who is in the automobile business at Early; Katie, the wife of Karl Fulcher, of Clinton township; Martha; Clara, a teacher in Boyer Valley township; William and Lola. Martha, William and Lola are still at home with their parents and the two youngest children are now in school at Early. Politically, Mr. Rosenhauer is a Democrat, and has taken an active part in the local campaigns of his party. He has served as trustee of Boyer Valley township and rendered faithful and efficient service to the citizens of the township while in that capacity. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He was reared in the faith of the Lutheran church, while his wife is a member of the Catholic church. Personally, Mr. Rosen-



hauer is a genial and companionable man and enjoys a wide acquaintance throughout this section of the state. Because of his energy in whatever he undertakes, he has been a leader in this community and has naturally been one of the most potent factors in the development of his township.

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### MICHAEL DAHM.

Among the prosperous farmers of German parentage who have made their home in Sac county, Iowa, is Michael Dahm, of Boyer Valley township. Coming to this county with practically nothing, he has, by the sweat of his brow, carved out a very respectable fortune within the past thirty years, and is now the owner of a half section of fine farming land in Boyer Valley township, this county. He is one of the oldest pioneers of the county, having lived here since 1875, and what he has accomplished is due solely to his energy, industry and sturdy persistence, qualities which are essential to success wherever they are properly used.

Michael Dahm was born on November 3, 1848, in Cook county, Illinois, the son of Anthony and Margaret Dahm, who were both natives of Germany, who came to this country and settled in Buffalo, New York. Later they went to Cook county, Illinois, and in 1852 moved on west to Dubuque county, Iowa, where they remained until 1865, when they moved to Clinton county, this state, where the father died in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Dahm were the parents of five children, Fred, Barbara, John, Katherine and Michael. Katherine went with her husband to Boyer Valley township, this county, in 1872, where she died many years ago. The other children are now living in Sac county, Iowa.

Michael Dahm came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1875, and located in Boyer Valley township. His first work consisted of breaking raw prairie land, and in 1876 he bought a part of his present farm. Until 1885, however, he lived on rented land, and in that year moved on to his own farm of one hundred and twenty acres. While it was partly improved it had no buildings on it, and for this reason he had not moved to it sooner. He later purchased two hundred acres of fine land. Mr. Dahm raises considerable live stock, and in 1913 shipped twenty-five head of cattle and one hundred and fifty head of hogs to the markets, and he finds stock raising a very profitable adjunct to his agricultural operations.

Mr. Dahm was married in 1885 to Katherine Engler, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. John Engler, who were the proprietors of the first hotel in Early. Mr. and Mrs. Dahm are the parents of six children: Mrs. Eva McQuirk, who lives in Boyer Valley township, and has four children, Cyril, Joseph, Florence and Robert; Anthony L., a farmer of Boyer Valley township; Mary A., Frederick B., Gertrude and Sylvester, the four youngest, who are still with their parents at home.

While Mr. Dahm is nominally a Democrat, yet he reserves the right to cast his vote for the best man in his opinion at elections irrespective of party lines. He is a class of the ever-increasing number of men who are independent in all of their local elections. He and all the members of his family are faithful and consistent members of the Catholic church and give to it their earnest and zealous support at all times. Mr. Dahm has so ordered his course at all times as to command the confidence and respect of the people of his community. He is a man of honorable business methods and advocates the promotion of the public welfare in any way.

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#### LOUIS BAHL.

The life history of no man can exceed in interest that of him who comes to this land of opportunity as a immigrant and who, in this great land, hampered by lack of knowledge of language and custom, yet overcomes all obstacles and reaches a position of influence in his adopted country. Such has been the history of Louis Bahl, who is now living a retired life in Sac City, Iowa. He was born June 28, 1840, in Prussia, the son of Frank George and Anna Elizabeth (Bear) Bahl. His parents came to this country when he was fourteen years of age and first located in Iowa. They came up the Mississippi river from New Orleans and had intended to locate in Arkansas, near Port Smith, but they could not ascend the Arkansas river on account of the low water. Therefore, they continued on their way up the Mississippi and landed at Davenport, Iowa, and thence they went to Muscatine county, where Frank Bahl bought sixty-five acres of land and built a small house. He had twelve hundred dollars in cash when he bought his farm and paid six hundred dollars of it for his land. The first winter which they spent in this country was very mild and they experienced none of those discomforts which they suffered during some of the succeeding winters. The family continued to live in Muscatine county until the outbreak of the war. Three of the sons of Frank Bahl, William, Frank and Henry, enlisted in the Union army and served throughout



LOTIS BAHIL AND FAMILY



the war. They engaged in forty-two skirmishes and battles and came out un-wounded at the end of the long struggle. William and Frank, it is interesting to note, were twins.

Louis Bahl received his elementary education in the public schools of Germany and also attended school a short time after coming to this country, in order to better acquaint himself with our language. He worked on the home farm until he was married, at the age of twenty-three, and then rented land from his parents, who had moved to Davenport. He also rented a farm adjoining his father's farm after the first year, and when his father sold the farm Louis teamed for a couple of years in Davenport. He then moved to a forty-acre farm in Muscatine county, and later rented an eighty-acre farm. After living four years on this farm he rented a one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm and lived on it for four years. In 1874 he moved to Cedar county and lived for seven years on a two-hundred-acre farm, which he rented. Then for the next three years he rented a three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm. In 1890 he went to Scott county, where he rented a farm for four years, and in 1894 came to Sac county and bought three hundred and twenty acres in Douglas township for thirty-five dollars an acre. There was one set of buildings on this farm and it was already somewhat improved, so that he had an opportunity to begin getting returns on his investment at once. He later built another set of buildings. In 1902 he bought one hundred and sixty acres at thirty-six dollars an acre, and sold this farm four years later for ten thousand dollars. In the spring of 1908 he moved to Sac City, where he has a fine residence in the northern part of the city.

Louis Bahl was married on November 20, 1863, to Augusta Ehrecke, who was born October 18, 1845. To this union were born twelve children, all of whom are living: Charles, of North Dakota; Mrs. Frances Evers, of Douglas township; Louis, Jr., of Dickinson county, Iowa; Mrs. Ida Royalty, of Butler county, Iowa; Mrs. Hannah Fisher, of Fort Pierce, Iowa; William, of Douglas township; Mrs. Anna Straub, of Clay county, Iowa; Edward, of Storm Lake, Iowa; Albert, of Douglas township; Mrs. Augusta Spinhirni, of Texas; Frank, of Montgomery, Iowa, and Harry, of Dickinson county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Bahl have twenty-six grandchildren. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 15, 1913.

Mr. Bahl has always been a Democrat in politics, but has confined his political activities to the casting of his vote for his party's candidate. Mr. Bahl is a man who has worked hard for what he now possesses and has won a success solely through his persevering industry and good management. He

has contributed his full share to the material advancement of his community. He and his wife have reared a large family of children to lives of honor and usefulness, and a greater thing than this can no American citizen do.

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### JOHN HANSON.

There have come to our country from foreign lands many men of limited financial resources, but imbued with sturdy independence and a laudable determination to succeed, and who have taken advantage of the wonderful possibilities afforded by our free institutions and gradually step by step have arisen to places of prominence and influence. The career of John Hanson illustrates most forcibly the possibilities that are open to a man who possesses intelligence and determination, combined with integrity and honor. It proves that success is not a thing to be inherited, but may be won by sheer force of energy, directed and controlled by correct moral principles. Mr. Hanson is an American by adoption, but none the less a most ardent and loyal citizen.

John Hanson, the oldest living farmer of Cook township, is a native of Sweden, born December 20, 1844, the son of Hans and Christina (Neilson) Hanson, both natives of Sweden. The mother died in her native country, and in 1882 Hans Hanson came to America and lived for twelve years with his son, John Hanson. He was a farmer and carpenter in the old country, working as a wagon maker and house builder during the winter time. He eventually removed to Harrison, Nebraska, where he died.

John Hanson left Sweden when he was twenty-one years of age and landed in the great city of Chicago in 1867 with only two cents. He was the possessor of two willing hands and a stout heart, and soon found work as a farm hand in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he worked for three years. He then worked on a railroad for three years, by which time he was able to rent a farm in DeKalb county, Illinois, which he cultivated for four years. In 1878 he came to Iowa and found employment with B. A. Coy, who had a farm within two miles of Early, Boyer Valley township. Here he worked for four years. During the years he had taken good care of his earnings, and in 1881 he was able to purchase a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, paying therefor fifteen dollars per acre. On this farm Mr. Hanson resided for a period of twenty-two years. He then removed to Early, where he purchased a nice home, turning the active management of his farm to his son.

John Hanson was married March 2, 1872, in DeKalb county, Illinois, to Elizabeth Johnson, a native of Sweden, who came to America in 1869 with her sister, Matilda Hanson, who now lives at Gowrie, Iowa. Mr. Hanson's brother, Peter Hanson, came to America in 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have three children: Levene, who lives on a farm, is married and has two children, Clarence and Robert; Mrs. Annie Hoff lives at Wall Lake, Iowa, and is the mother of seven living children, Levene, John, Veda, Claudie, Vera, Helen and Delbert, and Lawrence, who is deceased. Ida, the third child, is the wife of Frank Houston, a farmer of Boyer Valley township, and they had three children, John, deceased, William and Lloyd.

Elizabeth Johnson, the mother of these children, was born in Sweden July 19, 1842, a daughter of John Peterson Johnson and Catharine Johnson. The latter was born in March, 1821, and is still living in Sweden at the remarkable age of ninety-two.

Mr. Hanson is a member of the Masonic order, and both he and his wife are charter members of the Eastern Star. His church membership is with the Methodist church, while, politically, he affiliates with the Republican party. Mr. Hanson is deserving of the splendid success he has made for himself. He is a gentleman whom to know is to respect, and the meed of praise here accorded him is, in the estimation of his numerous friends, most worthily bestowed.

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#### THOMAS EDWARD GREENLEY.

It is found that very often in this country high public officials possess no higher ability than thousands of other citizens. They have simply taken better advantage of their surroundings than their fellows. And this truth runs through every occupation. The farmer who rises above his fellow farmers does so because he has found out how to rise above the surroundings which hold others down. Such a farmer is Thomas Edward Greenley, of Delaware township, Sac county, Iowa.

Thomas Edward Greenley, proprietor of a three-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm in Delaware township, Sac county, Iowa, was born November 29, 1872, in Dubuque, Iowa, the son of George and Susan Greenley. His parents were natives of England and came to this country, settling in Dubuque county, this state. In 1898 the Greenley family settled in Sac county on the farm which Thomas E. now owns. They were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living: Mrs. Alice Roach, of Early; Thomas E., with whom



this narrative is concerned; Mrs. Martha Gooding, of Canada; John, of Canada; Mrs. Cora Garfield, of Lake View; George, of Canada; Mrs. Frances Oldridge, of California; Mrs. Matilda Hicks, of Early, and Frank, deceased.

Thomas E. Greenley came to Sac county in the fall of 1891, when he was nineteen years of age. He had already worked at the carpenter trade long enough in order to be able to do good carpenter work, and secured employment as a carpenter and also worked on a farm when not carpentering. He worked for John McCormick in Sac county for four months, in 1891, and later worked for his uncle, Richard Greenley, in this county for six years. He was not afraid of any kind of honest toil and worked at anything which yielded him a fair wage. During this time he saved all the money he possibly could so that he might be able to purchase a farm later on in life. After leaving his uncle's employ he married and started to housekeeping on a rented farm. Two years later he rented his present farm, and in September, 1911, he bought the farm. He had previously purchased one hundred and sixty acres in the northern part of Delaware township and in 1912 he sold this, so that he now holds three hundred and sixty acres in Delaware township. Mr. Greenley recently removed to the town of Early, where he purchased a nice home and two acres of ground. He also recently made an important purchase of a half section of land in Boyer Valley township two miles east of Early. He disposed of twelve acres of his two hundred and sixty acres in Delaware township. During all the years that he has been farming in the county he has applied himself with that persistence and energy which are always sure to bring success, and, although he has had many discouragements to meet, he has successfully combatted them all and now has the satisfaction of feeling that he really has accomplished something in life.

Mr. Greenley was married in 1903 to Elizabeth Benzer, the daughter of George and Catherine Benzer. His wife was born in Pennsylvania, but came with her parents to Galena, Illinois, where she was reared to young womanhood. In 1900 the Benzer family came to Sac county and are now residing in Delaware township. Mr. and Mrs. Benzer have five children: Mrs. Katie Rhoads; George, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Greenley; John, of Montana; Edward; Melvin, deceased, and George.

The Republican party has always claimed the vote of Mr. Greenley, while his church affiliations have been cast with the Methodist Episcopal church. He has lived a useful life while in this community and has compelled the admiration of his fellow citizens, winning their confidence by his honest dealings. He is a man of kindly impulses and genial disposition and easily makes friends wherever he goes.

## JOHN E. CHRYSLER.

Some one has said that there are three influences which govern this country, namely, the pulpit, the press and public opinion. This means that there are really only two controlling influences, since public opinion would be of no force unless it found expression in the public press. No one can gainsay the fact that the power of the press is one of tremendous influence in shaping the affairs of the nation today, and while we may have legislatures who are supposed to direct our government, yet the newspapers of the country really suggest to the legislature the course which they should pursue. If every newspaper in the United States would favor a given national policy, there would be an amendment to the national Constitution within the next two years favoring that reform. The influence of a good newspaper in a community can not be over estimated, and it is to the credit of the editors of the country that their papers are usually found on the right side of most public questions.

John E. Chrysler, the editor of the *Odebolt Chronicle*, was born February 29, 1880, in O'Brien county, Iowa. His parents were Asahel B. and Anna (Edwards) Chrysler. A. B. Chrysler was born in 1848 in Canada of parents of American birth, his father and mother both coming from Pennsylvania. His wife was a native of Indiana. A. N. Chrysler came to Iowa in 1869 and homesteaded in O'Brien county, where he resided until 1891. He then moved to Dickinson county, where he resided for the next twenty years, after which, in 1910, he retired to Los Angeles. He served four years as postmaster at Hartley, Iowa, and fourteen years at Lake Park in this state, and at the time of the expiration of his last term he was the oldest postmaster in point of service in the state of Iowa. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Chrysler: Eva, the wife of W. W. Gaunt, of Corning, Iowa; John E., newspaper man of Odebolt; C. B., of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Elva A., of Chicago.

John E. Chrysler was educated in the public schools of Lake Park, Iowa, graduating from the high school at that place. He took his college course in Des Moines, and while living there he became interested in newspaper work. He had taken a business course in Des Moines and this threw him in touch with the newspaper field, with the result that he secured a position as reporter on the *Des Moines Leader*. Later he went to Chicago and worked on different papers there for six years and in this way got the practical experience which is necessary to every successful editor and publisher. He then felt competent to conduct a paper of his own and went to Lake Park,

Iowa, where he took charge of a paper owned by his father. He later disposed of this interest and conducted a newspaper at Early, Iowa, and in 1896 went to Cody, Wyoming, where he got charge of the *Cody Enterprise*. This paper was originally founded and owned by Col. William F. Cody, more familiarly known as "Buffalo Bill." On October 1, 1910, he went to Odebolt and took charge of the *Chronicle* and has been managing that paper up to the present time. His paper espouses the principles of Progressive Republicanism and, although a paper of local circulation, he does not hesitate to voice his opinion in forceful English. The purpose of a newspaper of this sort is to gather local news and present it to its reader in a plain and simple manner. This he does, with the result that his paper has gradually increased in circulation and has become a household necessity throughout the community. In addition to his paper he also runs a job press and adds not a little to his annual income from this source.

Mr. Chrysler was married on Christmas day, 1905, to Elizabeth G. Griffin, of Sac City, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Griffin. Mr. and Mrs. Chrysler have two sons, Gage and John, and two daughters, Shirley and Alice.

Fraternally, Mr. Chrysler is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He also belongs to the Mystic Shrine of Sioux City. He holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America at Odebolt. Mr. Chrysler is a man who easily makes friends and in his capacity as a newspaper man has built up a wide acquaintance throughout the county. He takes an active interest in all public enterprises and never hesitates to express his opinion on articles of local interest.

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#### COL. ALBERT S. TEAQUIST.

It is within the province of man himself to become proficient along one particular line and so develop his ability in a useful profession or vocation so that he can rise to an eminence as an expert which shall be unshakable. We are living in a day of specialists; the old fashioned "jack-of-all-trades," who formerly was evident and even plentiful in most communities, is fast disappearing. The man who specializes in one particular thing and so familiarizes himself with the intricacies of his vocation that the people of necessity must employ his services is now in great demand. His remuneration is gauged to fit his capabilities and it is generally without limit except

as to the extent of his power and ability. In other words, at present, there are many openings in which the earning power of the individual is no longer limited and his financial success or fame depends entirely upon his own industry and intelligence. This is as it should be, and it makes for better service on behalf of both the employer and the skilled professional. One of the most eminent and successful specialists in his particular line in Sac county and even western Iowa is Col. A. S. Teaquist, auctioneer and farmer at Odebolt, Iowa. He ranks as the oldest auctioneer in point of years of service and is one of the best known men in the profession within Sac county. Mr. Teaquist has been crying sales in Sac county and throughout the West and Northwest for nearly thirty years and has developed a proficiency in the profession and achieved a reputation throughout the country that is truly remarkable. One must consider this fact, also, that Mr. Teaquist is foreign born and is a native of Sweden. This has proven to be no handicap, however, as it is conceded that of all foreign-born Americans, the Swedes are the quickest to adapt themselves to American ways and the most apt in learning our language of all the non-English-speaking races. The community in which Mr. Teaquist resides furnishes the best evidence of the progressiveness and general intelligence of the Swedish-Americans in all walks of life.

Albert S. Teaquist was born January 11, 1866, in Skorsburjlan, Sweden, and is the son of Abraham and Jane Teaquist, who emigrated to America in 1870. During their first year in this country they resided at Jacksonport, Wisconsin, and then removed to Delaware county, Iowa. In 1877 they settled in Sac county in the vicinity of Odebolt. Abraham Teaquist was a pioneer settler in Wheeler township, but died in November of his first year of settlement in the county. He was the father of the following children: John A., a rancher in Idaho; Christine, who died in November of 1877; Mrs. Anna S. Huldeen, of Richland township; Albert S.; Matilda, who died in 1880; Charles L., an auctioneer of Spencer, Nebraska; Nellie H., wife of C. W. Kistler, a blacksmith living in Odebolt. The mother of these children resides in Odebolt and is now over eighty years of age. She is housekeeper for her son.

The family resided on the Wheeler township farm until the year 1899 and then moved to Odebolt. In 1886 Colonel Teaquist took up the profession of auctioneer and it is recorded that he cried three successful sales before he had attained the age of twenty-one years. His work in his profession requires his activities in Sac, Ida and Crawford counties and the total number of farm and live stock sales conducted under his management during a season will run from fifty to one hundred in number.

Mr. Teaquist is likewise engaged in farming and for a period of two years he conducted an implement business in Odebolt. He is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich land in Richland township which he is at present improving with a new residence and buildings. His fine home residence is located on Lincoln avenue in Odebolt.

Colonel Teaquist was married January 7, 1897, to Amanda Bergin, who died December 13, 1905. Four children have blessed this union, namely: Charles A., aged sixteen years and a bright, manly fellow who is a credit to his parents; George A., aged fourteen years; Lloyd A. C., aged twelve years; Howard L., aged eight years. Colonel Teaquist was married June 3, 1914, to Ida M. Hume.

Politically, Mr. Teaquist is allied with the Republican party, but is usually found aligned with the cause of good government which will benefit the greater number of people. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, which is the faith of his Swedish forbears. He is an intelligent, forceful citizen and is rated as a valued member of the community in which he resides. To know him is to have a sincere liking for him.

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#### REV. FRANCIS McNEILL.

There is no earthly station higher than the ministry of the Gospel, no life can be more uplifting and grander than that which is devoted to the amelioration of the human race, a life of sacrifice for the betterment of the brotherhood of man, one that is willing to cast aside all worthy crowns and laurels of fame in order to follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life, for its influence continues to permeate the lives of others through succeeding generations, so the power it has can not be known until the "last great day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible." One of the self-sacrificing, ardent, loyal and true spirits that has been a blessing to the race, who has left in his wake an influence that ever makes the world brighter and betters the lives of those who follow, is the Rev. Francis McNeill, whose life forcibly illustrates what energy, integrity and a fixed purpose can accomplish when animated by noble aims and correct ideals. He has ever held the unequivocal confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has labored, and his career can be very profitably studied by the ambitious youth standing at the parting of the ways.



REV. FRANCIS McNEILL





Rev. Father Francis McNeill, son of James and Bridget (Dillon) McNeill, was born in Ireland September 19, 1864. His father died in Ireland, and Father McNeill came to this country when he was nineteen years of age. He had already received a good elementary education in the schools of Ireland, and a few months after arriving in America he entered St. Vincent's Seminary at Germantown, Pennsylvania, where he remained for four years, and then entered St. Vincent's College at Los Angeles, California, where he spent two years. He next attended St. Mary's College at Perryville, Missouri, where he spent three years. In the meantime he had been doing some teaching. He was ordained in June, 1892, and taught two years at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. In 1894 he was made assistant priest of St. Patrick's church at LaSalle, Illinois, where he labored to noble purpose for a period of three years, and was beloved by the entire parish. He then returned to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and taught two more years as prefect of St. Vincent's College, and he was in charge of the parish church for one year of this time. In 1899 Father McNeill went to the Black Hills, in South Dakota, and did mission work on the prairies. He lived with the cowboys and miners and led an out-door life such as they live. He built a little church in Central City, in the Black Hills, and here worked and labored, doing an incalculable amount of good for the next five years. He made a home at St. Onge, South Dakota, where he built a house after two years work in the Black Hills, and attended a circuit of one hundred miles. Among the missions which he attended and where he held services as often as he could make his rounds, were the following: Spearfish, Bellefourche, Whitewood, Indian Creek, Morrow, Camp Crook. He also attended the missions of Aladdin and Beulah, in Wyoming. However, the exposure brought about a severe attack of rheumatism, which took him out of this field. He then came to Sioux City diocese and was stationed at Onawa, Iowa, for four years. Then he was at Rolfe, for nine months, and was then transferred to Schaller, where he is now working. He also supplies the church at Holstein, Our Lady of Good Council, on every second Sunday in the month.

The Schaller St. Joseph Catholic church was a mission from 1884 to 1904, and was attended by the priest located at Early. It was created into an independent parish in 1904. Rev. Father Francis Wrenn was the first resident pastor and built the present parish residence, and after one year he was succeeded by Rev. Father William Shannon, and two years and a half later by Rev. Father Francis McNeill. A large new church, costing eighteen thousand dollars, was dedicated on Thanksgiving day, 1913. The church at

Schaller now has two hundred and five persons enrolled in membership. Father McNeill is a very companionable man and has his heart in his work, serves faithfully his Master, and the good which he does will never receive its full reward on this earth.

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### HARRY BAXTER.

Sunnyside farm in Cedar township is well and aptly named, for here resides one of the most progressive and truly hospitable families in Sac county. In every community which is blessed with the regular allotment of good things meant for the uplifting of the people are usually found some wide-awake citizens who are alive to their opportunities and are happier when they are mingling with their neighbors and joining them in matters of general improvement and taking part in the quest for knowledge. Harry Baxter is one of the leaders in Sac county in the general wave of better farming which is sweeping the great state of Iowa. He is firm believer in making the soil yield better and bigger crops and in trying to make two blades of grass grow where but one grew before. No pleasanter home is found in the land than the Baxter homestead, on Sunnyside farm. The Baxters keep open house for their friends and acquaintances and Mr. Baxter is one of the leaders in the agricultural and official life of Sac county. His farm is a genuine model of its kind and consists of one hundred and twenty acres of the finest land obtainable, equipped with a modern residence and buildings in accordance with a well-laid-out plan. His farming operations cover two hundred acres in all. During 1913 he planted seventy acres in corn and raised an excellent crop. For years he has been a breeder of Galloway cattle and has a fine herd of about seventeen thoroughbreds on the place.

Harry Baxter was born September 15, 1871, in Leeds, England, and is the son of George H. Baxter, who was born in 1845, and Emma Baxter who died in England when Harry was yet a child. In 1882 George H. Baxter and son Harry came to America from England and located in Cedar township. They were not the first of the Baxter family to emigrate to America, however, for in 1862 Thomas Baxter, father George H., emigrated to the state of Illinois and lived there until the spring of 1882, when he came to Sac county. Father and son made the trip in the month of May. Harry was ten years of age and had been attending the schools in his native town in England previous to coming to America. After coming here he attended the district schools near the home farm. He resided with his father until

twenty-one years of age and then took possession of his grandfather's farm of forty acres. He improved the land as he was able and now has one of the finest and best equipped farms in Sac county. He was at one time a very extensive breeder of Galloway cattle and owned a herd of over sixty head of grade stock.

Mr. Baxter is a Republican in politics. He was elected auditor of Sac county in the fall of 1906 and entered office January 1, 1907, and served two years. It is said of him that he was one of the most reliable and competent officials who ever served in the court house. He has filled the office of township trustee and has been secretary of the township school board. During his term as county auditor it was necessary for him to reside in Sac City, but on the expiration of his term he and the members of his family were more than pleased to get back to the farm home. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the order of Knights Templar.

Mr. Baxter was married on October 12, 1892, to Anna Wilkinson, daughter of J. W. Wilkinson, of Cedar township. John William Wilkinson was born November 11, 1843, in Leeds, England, the son of John and Sarah Ann (Kendall) Wilkinson. The father was a blacksmith. Anna Kendall was the daughter of John Kendall, a machinist and inventor who was a mechanic in the Marshall flax mill at Leeds. John W. Wilkinson learned the trade of blacksmith and machinist and rose to the foremanship of a factory in his native city. On August 1, 1887, he emigrated to America and came to Sac county, purchasing a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Cedar township where he now resides. He is an independent in politics and is a great reader, keeping abreast of the times in every way possible. In his early life he studied political economy and became a convert to the teachings of John Stuart Mill. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Wilkinson was married in 1865 to Sarah Jane Harrison, of Leeds, who was born September 1, 1843. They are the parents of five children, four of whom are yet living: Mrs. Harry Baxter; Walter, who died in Cedar township at the age of twenty years; Edward, a farmer in Stickney county, South Dakota; Clara, wife of Albert Body, who tills the home farm; Mrs. John Chalfant, of Bayette, Idaho.

To Harry Baxter and wife have been born children, as follows: Clara, a graduate of the Sac City high school, class of 1911, and now a teacher in Sac county; George W., who graduated from the high school in 1913, took first honors in his class and won the Ames scholarship; May, a student in the high school

This highly esteemed couple are both well educated and readers of good literature. Their tables and book shelves are filled with high class monthly periodicals and the classics of literature. The family they are rearing is a credit to themselves and to the community. Their home is aptly named and the genial sociability and innate hospitality given the visitor to their home breathes the spirit of "sunnyside". The reviews in this volume concerning Sac county people of this character serve to embellish and make more valuable to future posterity the memoirs of the county.

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### AUGUST ROSEKE.

It has always been a noticeable fact that the German people are thriftier than we and that, everything being equal, they, as a rule, become the possessors of property earlier than the young men of other nationalities. This fact need not be wondered at when we come to consider the matter from the proper viewpoint, owing to the fact that the German is more industrious and less extravagant, keeping in mind the aphorism that "a dollar saved is a dollar made." However, he does not necessarily deny himself the necessities of everyday life, and believes in having a good sprinkle of its luxuries, but he has taught himself to get along with less of the so-called good things of the material world than we of the present generation especially. In other words, Americans are better spenders, and it is no credit to us to say that we are, as a rule, not willing to do whatever falls to our lot with equal grace, being inclined to rebel if we can not secure just the precise line of work that suits our particular fancy, while, on the other hand, the young German coming to this country will work at whatever is honorable in order to get a foothold in the world.

August Roseke, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born August 11, 1845, in Germany, and was the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Roseke, both of whom spent all of their lives in their native land. August was the youngest of five children, and received a good common school education in his native country. When he was fourteen years of age, he left school and started to work out at farm labor in Germany in order to make a living, and for the next fifteen years he worked and saved his money. He came to America in 1875, and came directly to the state of Iowa, where he worked for the first year and a half after his arrival in Black Hawk county, this state, for fifteen dollars a month. In

1876 he came to Sac county, and spent his first year as a farm hand. In 1877 he bought a team of horses from his employer for two hundred dollars, paid one hundred dollars for a wagon and then rented a farm for one year. He continued to rent land until his marriage in 1880, when he bought eighty acres of his present farm for seven dollars an acre and started in to make his fortune. Beginning with this eighty acres, which he had to buy on time, he has added to his land holdings from time to time until he is now the owner of five hundred and thirteen acres of fine farming land in Cedar and Coon Valley townships, this county. After he had purchased his first eighty, he improved and developed it and brought it to such a high state of cultivation that he was realizing a handsome profit from it, and then bought forty acres adjoining for twelve dollars an acre. Later he bought forty acres of swamp land at six dollars an acre, eighty acres at thirty dollars an acre, eighty acres at twenty-six dollars an acre, and in 1908 he purchased one hundred and ninety-three acres at seventy-five dollars an acre. His land will now average one hundred and fifty dollars an acre in value, and is increasing in value all the time. In 1913 he had on his farm fifteen head of horses, fifty head of cattle, forty-one head of hogs and raised one hundred acres of corn, which averaged sixty bushels to the acre. His farms are well improved in every way, with two barns of general dimensions, fine fencing, good drainage and a fine, new home which he has recently constructed for his son. It is needless to say that he has prospered for the sole reason that he has been thrifty and economical in his habits and has bent every energy toward the careful cultivation of his land.

Mr. Roseke was married on October 24, 1880, to Friederika Buchholz, who also was a native of Germanv, born August 12, 1855, and came to this county with her parents when she was thirteen years of age, in May, 1869. To this marriage have been born eight children, three of whom died in infancy and five are living, four of whom are still at home. Those living are Carl, Hulda, Emma (wife of Henry Hinrichs, of Coon Valley township), Fred and Wilhelm.

In politics Mr. Roseke is a Democrat and lends his stanch support to the candidates of that party. He and all of his family are loyal members of the German Lutheran church and give their honest support to it at all times. Mr. Roseke is truly a self-made man who has attained to a respectable position in his community and enjoys the esteem and respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and his success is due simply to his energy and industry which, combined with sound judgment, justness in his dealings and wise foresight, have brought him a just measure of success in his new home.

## EPHRAIM ADDISON WILLIAMS.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages and as a usual thing men of honorable and humane impulses, as well as those of energy and thrift, have been patrons of husbandry. The free out-of-door life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood and no truer blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. It has always been the fruitful soil from which have sprung the moral bone and sinew of the country, and the majority of our nation's great warriors, renowned statesmen and distinguished men of letters were born on the farm and were indebted largely to his early influence for the distinction which they have attained.

Ephraim Addison Williams, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, this county, was born July 2, 1845, in Belmont county, Ohio, and reared to manhood in Washington county, Ohio, near Marietta. His parents were William and Margaret (Hogan) Williams, natives of Delaware and Maryland, respectively. When Ephraim was a small child, his mother died and his father then married Mrs. Nancy (Gregory) Lang and died in Washington county, Ohio. There were ten children born to William and first wife, five of whom are living: George W., Dennis H., Angeline, Edward H. and Ephraim Addison.

Ephraim Addison Williams lived in Ohio until after the war when he and his stepmother left the state for Polk county, Iowa. They bought a farm in that county and remained there until 1886. Ephraim went to Kansas and lived in Wichita for two and a half years. He was there when the town was started and had the honor of placing the first bank safe into the Wichita Bank, performing this deed with block, tackle and a pair of oxen. He went from Wichita to Polk county, Iowa, and in 1892 came to Sac county, Iowa, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, and two years later brought his family to this county at a total cost of twenty-three dollars. He has added to his farm from time to time until he now has three hundred and twenty acres. In 1896 he added eighty acres at a cost of forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents an acre and in 1906 he bought eighty acres more at a cost of eighty-two dollars an acre. His land will now average one hundred and fifty dollars an acre in value. Since settling in this county he has taken an important part in the public affairs of his township and has served as trustee and school director. He is a prominent Republican of the township and takes an active interest in the affairs of his party.



Mr. Williams was married in 1878 to Lydia L. Dietz, of Polk county, Iowa. To this marriage have been born three children: Mrs. Barbara Effie Foster, whose husband is a farmer in Cedar township, Mr. and Mrs. Foster have two children, Nina and Edna; John W., the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, was born July 6, 1880, and is now living on the home farm with his parents; Susanna, his youngest daughter, is still under the parental roof. The family are regular attendants at church and take an active part in the church and social life of their community. Mr. Williams raises considerable live stock and in 1913 had fifty cattle, eight horses and thirty-five hogs on his farm. He has a beautiful home and attractive grounds and large barns and good outbuildings of all kinds.

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#### WILL I. MOLSBERRY.

The life of the young dentist and public-spirited man of affairs whose name appears above affords a striking example of well defined purpose with the ability to make that purpose subserve not only his own ends but the good of his fellowmen as well. He is building up a distinctive prestige in a calling which requires for its basis sound mentality and intellectual discipline of a high order, supplemented by the rigid professional training and thorough mastery of technical knowledge with the skill to apply the same without which one can not hope to rise above mediocrity in ministering to dental ills.

Dr. Will R. Molsberry, of the dental firm of Molsberry Brothers, of Sac City, Iowa, was born in Worth county, Iowa, February 14, 1884. His parents were William and Anna (Heiny) Molsberry, natives respectively of Michigan and Iowa. William Molsberry was born in 1842, the son of Benjamin Molsberry, one of the pioneer settlers of Worth county. The Molsberrys came to Worth county in 1850 and there made their permanent home. Mrs. William Molsberry died in 1887, and her husband is still living with one of his children in Worth county. They were the parents of a family of ten children, all of whom are living: Mrs. Mary Smith, of Worth county; Mrs. Emma McMurtrie, of Worth county; Jesse, of Worth county; Mrs. Effie Dostal, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mrs. Minnie Peshak, of Worth county; Frank R., of the firm of Molsberry Brothers; Mrs. Bertha Crimmins and Mrs. Carrie Sanderson, of Cerro Gordo county, Iowa; Mrs. Irene Merrill, of Wyoming, and Dr. Will R., whose history is sketched in this connection.



Doctor Molsberry was educated in the public schools of Worth county and then graduated from the Manly high school and Nore Springs Seminary, of Floyd county. He then entered the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, and graduated from that institution in the department of dentistry in the spring of 1908. He then came to Sac City, where he and his brother formed a partnership for the practice of dentistry. Frank R. graduated from the State University in 1905 and practiced in Sheldon until joining his brother, Dr. Will R., in Sac City in the spring of 1908. The young men are rapidly building up a lucrative practice, because of their technical skill and courteous treatment of their customers.

Doctor Molsberry is a Republican in politics, but the nature of his profession naturally prevents him from taking an active part in political affairs. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he renders substantial support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and also holds membership in the Eastern Star.

Doctor Molsberry was married in December, 1910, to Irene Brownell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Brownell. Doctor Molsberry is a man of energy and ambition, who is not afraid to work and within the short time that he has been a citizen of this community he has won the confidence and respect of those with whom he is brought in contact.

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### JOHN CURRIE.

It is a fact indisputable that a man's standing in the community is determined by two factors: the measure of personal good which he has accomplished in behalf of his fellow men and the degree in which he has achieved personal success and fortune in his own behalf. There are other conditions which have a decided bearing upon the opinion which his acquaintances and friends have concerning him as a part of the body politic, such as his faculty of making friends and his neighborliness, his moral character, the weight of his personal influence when exerted for the right, and the care which he bestows upon his family. The man who measures fully up to these required standards is truly a man worth knowing, and of such is genuine history written which has a decided influence upon the rising generation. Tilling the soil gives but little opportunity for a man to become unduly famous or widely known, except within the borders of his own county, but of such men are the best communities created. The farmer measures up



JOHN CURRIE AND FAMILY



to the highest standards set for the gauging of manhood if he possesses to a certain extent the foregoing attribute. John Currie, farmer of Clinton township, is a citizen whom it is a pleasure to know and who inspires respect on acquaintance and whose reputation is of the best. He is a pioneer settler of Sac county, one who commenced with little of this world's goods at the beginning of his career, and who has amassed a comfortable competence through diligence, indefatigable effort and honest and straightforward dealing with his associates.

John Currie settled in Clinton township in the year 1874, on the northwest quarter of section 20. The country was at that time a wide sweep of unbroken prairie, with not even a wagon track to mar its even continuity of surface. The waving grass, growing to a height of three feet, covered the land like a vast inland sea of verdure. He was the third settler in this township. Two others had preceded him, H. J. Martin and Mr. Sherwood having previously settled in the township. Mr. Currie paid five dollars and sixty cents an acre for his land on a time contract. During his first year he was able to erect a very small house, twelve by twenty feet in dimension, and raise a fine crop of sod corn and potatoes. His corn yielded sixty bushels to the acre and he raised two hundred bushels of potatoes in this first season. He was enabled to dispose of the greater part of his corn and potatoes to good advantage. He traded some of the potatoes for two brood sows, which gave him his start in hog raising. He has ever been thankful for the smiles of Providence during this first year, as he had no money when he came to Sac county, and his good fortune came as a Godsend to him and his family. Mr. Currie recalls that money was a minus commodity for several years, and there were times when the settlers became discouraged, he among them, for, in 1877, when the grasshoppers were devastating the land and driving the settlers eastward and westward by their ravages, even his optimistic attitude toward the world was changed, and, becoming thoroughly discouraged, he disposed of eighty acres of his land. Had a really good excuse been forthcoming at this time he would have left the county and remained away. Fortunately for him, there came a change in conditions, and prosperity gradually smiled once more on his efforts, and he was enabled to repurchase his former "eighty" in 1878. December 12, 1875, his son, Malcolm, the first white child born in Clinton township, first saw the light of day. In 1880 he bought eighty acres, containing improvements, for thirty dollars an acre. In 1883 he invested in one hundred acres and in 1886 he added sixty acres to his holdings. Since that time he has bought and sold several tracts of land. His home estate consists of four hundred acres of excellent land, on which is a

good home, erected twenty-five years ago. He also owns one hundred acres in Wall Lake township. In 1912 he purchased six hundred and sixty-three acres of the Cook ranch, which is now in the possession of his sons, who are cultivating it.

Mr. Currie has long been a breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and the size of his herd ranges from one hundred to three hundred head of this excellent stock. He is also a famous breeder of English Shire horses, and has twenty-five head of thoroughbred animals on the farm. He purchased his present home farm in 1892, at a cost of fifty dollars an acre, and has since resided thereon.

Biographically speaking, John Currie was born October 20, 1846, in Argyleshire, Scotland, and is the son of Duncan and Mary (Smith) Currie, who emigrated to America in 1873 and settled in Clinton county, Iowa. John had preceded his parents to Clinton county by three years and had sent them such glowing accounts of the new country that they were induced to leave the home of their fathers and come to America. They were the parents of nine children, as follows: Neil, who resides in Scotland; John; Malcolm died in Schaller, Iowa; Mrs. Betsey Patton, of Wright county, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Calhoun, who died in April, 1914, near Herring, Iowa; Hector, a farmer residing near Schaller; Duncan, formerly a farmer in Clinton township, now deceased; James, a citizen of Oregon; Mrs. Mary Fleming, deceased.

When he had attained the age of twenty-four years, John Currie borrowed money from relatives in Scotland and set sail for America and arrived in the city of Quebec May 1, 1870. He managed to make his way southward to Whiteside county, Illinois, and obtained employment in the construction of a county drainage ditch at a wage of two dollars per day. In November of the same year he journeyed to Clinton county, Iowa, and worked in a saw mill, drawing wages of one dollar and seventy-five cents per day for his labor. He continued in this employment for three years, and at the time of his departure, in 1873, for Sac county, he was drawing two dollars and seventy-five cents per day. Being of a saving and thrifty disposition, he had managed to save one thousand dollars with which to begin his career in Sac county. Success has been his portion.

Politically, Mr. Currie is a progressive Republican, but he has never sought political preferment. However, he has lent his influence in behalf of good government and the selection of competent officials on every occasion where he could do so. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and is fraternally affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Mr. Currie was married March 2, 1873, in Clinton county, Iowa, to Jeannette McGeachey, and on March 4th he and his bride started for their future home in Sac county. During this long period Mrs. Currie has been a true and faithful helpmeet and an excellent mother to her children. She is the daughter of Malcolm McGeachey, a native of Scotland, and was born February 14, 1849, in Scotland. This estimable couple have reared a family of eleven children, namely: Malcolm, county attorney, resides at Sac City, and of whom further mention is made in this volume; Duncan, a farmer in Richland township; Mrs. Mary Smith, also in Richland township; John, a farmer in Cook township; Jean, at home; Neil, a farmer in Cook township; Alexander, owner of one hundred and sixty acres in Cook township; Mrs. Jessie Houchins, who resides in Wall Lake township; Margaret, a student at Ames College; Dugald and Donald, at home.

Mr. Currie is recognized as a man of sterling worth, whose life is closely interwoven with the history of the community which he has taken such an active part in building up, and his efforts have always been put forth in behalf of the advancement of the neighborhood. The well-regulated and industrious life which he has led entitles him to representation in this work, thereby leaving an imperishable memoir for the future edification of his descendants and friends.

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#### BENJAMIN F. COLLENBAUGH.

In Sac county are two classes of pioneer settlers and pioneer families. But few remain of the first families which came into the county over half a century ago, but a large and increasing number of descendants of those who settled in the county in the second settlement decade are found and are occupying permanent positions as exponents of the science of husbandry in its most advance form in the fertile sections of this great subdivision of a great and wealthy state.

Those settlers who came in the second migration to the fertile areas within the borders of the county, journeyed hither with the intention of staying and providing opportunity for their children. Land was then much cheaper in Sac county and the thrifty husbandmen from the older counties of Iowa were wise in their day and generation inasmuch as they disposed of developed farms in the older county and invested in large tracts in Sac county. The father of the well-known agriculturist whose name forms the caption of this review was among those whose foresight and power of vision drew him



onward from his former home in Clinton county, Iowa, to the newer lands of Sac county, wherein he would be better enabled to found a home and present better opportunities for his sons to follow in his footsteps. Christopher C. Collenbaugh, father of Benjamin F. Collenbaugh, was one of a large number of Clinton county people to settle in Cook township in the period which includes the year of his migration in 1883. B. F. later removed from his home township to Cedar township where he now has one of the finest and most productive farms in the county.

Benjamin F. Collenbaugh, proprietor of the Fairmont farm of two hundred acres in Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born November 22, 1867, in Greene county, Indiana. He is the son of C. C. and Rosanna S. (Maxwell) Collenbaugh, natives of Ohio, who were among the early settlers in Indiana. C. C. Collenbaugh and family left Indiana for Iowa in 1877 and located in Clinton county, where they remained for six years. In 1883 they settled in Sac county, where they bought a large farm in Cook township, on which the father died August 6, 1905, at the age of seventy-seven; his widow is still living in Odebolt in this county, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Collenbaugh were the parents of five children: Mrs. Mamie Flathers, of Odebolt; John M., of Doone, Iowa; Mrs. Alice Davenport, of Odebolt; Benjamin F., whose history is portrayed in this connection, and Charles M., of Odebolt.

Benjamin F. Collenbaugh received his early education in Indiana and after his parents came to Iowa he finished his schooling in Odebolt. Upon reaching his majority he rented a farm in Cook township for five years and later bought forty acres in the same township at forty dollars an acre. In 1907 he moved to a farm near Sac City, where he remained until he moved to his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He paid one hundred dollars an acre for this land and in 1912 bought another eighty acres, paying one hundred dollars an acre for it. He now has two hundred acres of land which is easily worth two hundred dollars an acre. In 1913 he had out sixty acres of corn which averaged fifty-five bushels to the acre, forty acres of oats which averaged thirty-seven bushels to the acre, besides live stock, consisting of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. His farm is well improved in every way, has a good house set in a handsome grove and a bank barn which he constructed in 1911 at a cost of twelve hundred dollars.

Mr. Collenbaugh is a member of the Republican party and, although he keeps well informed on the current issues of the day, he has never taken an active interest in the deliberations of his party. Fraternally, he is a member of



the Yeomen, while he and the members of his family are regular attendants at the Christian church.

Mr. Collenbaugh was married in 1892 to Agnes Falconer, of Manchester, Iowa, and to this union have been born five children: May, the wife of Newton Penninan, of Douglas township, this county; Verna, who is now eighteen and a senior in the high school at Sac City; Leonard, who is fifteen and in the high school, class of 1914; Gladys and Lloyd, who are now in the grade schools of Cedar township. Mr. Collenbaugh has, by his conscientious methods and upright dealings, made a success of his farming and because of his kindness of nature and generosity of heart he has won a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the community.

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#### PERRY S. HOSKINS.

An enumeration of the representative citizens of Sac county, Iowa, would be incomplete without specific mention of the well known and popular gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. A member of one of the old and highly esteemed families of the central part of the state and for many years a public-spirited man of affairs, he has stamped the impress of his individuality upon the community and added luster to the honorable name which he bears, having always been scrupulously honest in all his relations with his fellow men and leaving no stone unturned whereby he might benefit his own condition as well as that of his neighbors and friends, consequently he has long ago won the favor of a great number of people of the county where he maintains his home.

Perry S. Hoskins, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born August 16, 1858, in Marshall county, Illinois, the son of C. W. and Elizabeth (Tanquary) Hoskins, both of whom were natives of Pickaway county, Ohio. In 1865 a colony of Ohio people, numbering fifteen families in all and including Abner Hoskins, the grandfather of P. S. Hoskins, left Ohio, and settled in Marshall county, Illinois. The Tanquarys were among the families who made this change of residence. Here the Hoskins family lived until 1899, when they moved to Sac county, Iowa, where the parents died. C. W. Hoskins and wife were the parents of six children: P. S., whose history is here given; Mrs. Laura McCully, of Marshall county, Illinois; Cornelius, of Cedar township; Ed, who lives in Buena Vista county, Iowa; Abner, of Portland, Oregon, and William, of Marshall county, Illinois.

P. S. Hoskins received his education in the public schools of Illinois, and when twenty-four years of age married and began farming for himself. For the first few years he rented land, then his father-in-law gave him and his wife seventy-five acres of land with the condition that he should improve and develop it. This he did to a very satisfactory degree and later sold it and came to Sac county, arriving here on February 19, 1907. He immediately bought a farm of two hundred and sixteen acres in the northeast quarter of section 18, and the north fifty-six acres of the southeast quarter of section 18 in Cedar township, paying ninety dollars an acre for it. At that time this was the highest priced land in the county, its value being enhanced because of the natural fertility of the soil and also because it had already been partly tiled. His land is now easily worth two hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. He has improved the tract in every way by erecting new buildings and fencing and draining it. Since going on this farm he has placed over six hundred rods of tiling, an improvement which has more than paid for the original outlay. In 1913 he had sixty-nine acres in corn, which averaged about sixty bushels to the acre. He sells annually about two car loads of cattle and stock. He brings to his work a fair knowledge of all the phases of farming and by means of farmers' institutes and agricultural magazines, keeps in close touch with all the latest developments in farming.

Mr. Hoskins was married in 1882, to Adeline Ingram, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Ingram, who were both natives of West Virginia, and to this marriage there have been born two children, Lillian and William, the former of whom is still at home with her parents, while William is farming in Cedar township, this county, on his father's farm.

Politically, Mr. Hoskins is a Republican, but owing to the comparatively short time which he has been in the county, and the arduous duties connected with his agricultural interests, he has never felt that he had the time to mix much in the game of politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, subordinate lodge and encampment. He also belongs to the Rebekah lodge and the Modern Woodmen of America. Enough has been said concerning his career in this state and county to show what can be accomplished by a man who determines to make a success of farming. There is no better farming territory in the world than in this county and certainly the farmers of this section have proved equal in ability to the farmers of any other spot in the world. Mr. Hoskins is maintaining his reputation as one of the best farmers who have ever followed that vocation in this county.

## HENRY F. DETTMANN.

The subject of this review is a representative farmer and stock grower of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, and he is known as one of the alert, progressive and successful agriculturists of this favored section of the Hawkeye state. In his labors he has not permitted himself to follow in the rut in a blind, apathetic way, but has studied and experimented and thus secured the maximum returns from his enterprising efforts, while he has so ordered his course at all times as to command the confidence and regard of the people of the community in which he lives, being a man of honorable business methods and advocating whatever tends to promote the public welfare in any way.

Henry F. Dettmann, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, was born in 1875 in Bremer county, Iowa. His parents were Henry and Mary Dettmann, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to this country and settled in Bremer county, Iowa, shortly before the birth of Henry F., the oldest one of their children, and in 1880 moved near Sac City in Sac county. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dettmann are the parents of seven children, five of whom are living: Henry F.; Mrs. Caroline Heck, of Calhoun county; Mrs. Dora Reman, of Calhoun county; Mrs. Augusta Robbins, of Calhoun county, and Fred, who is now on the old home farm. Henry Dettmann is still living in Coon Valley township, but his wife has been dead several years.

Henry F. Dettmann was educated in the schools of Sac county and remained with his parents on the farm until his marriage in 1899. He then moved on to the farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he had purchased in 1898. He paid one hundred dollars for his first one hundred and sixty and later bought sixty acres more, for which he paid eighty-five dollars an acre. Since going on to the farm he has placed ten thousand dollars worth of improvements, consisting of buildings, tiling, ditching and fencing. In the summer of 1912 he remodeled his house, making it more convenient and modern and in 1902 erected a large barn; in 1913 he had eighty acres of corn, which averaged forty bushels to the acre. He raises a considerable amount of stock and last year had ten head of horses, fifteen head of cattle and five sheep. He now has his farm of two hundred and twenty acres in a condition where it is netting him handsome returns annually, and by his systematic course of crop rotation he is able to keep his soil up to the highest state of productivity.

Mr. Dettmann was married in 1899 to Emma Leggett, of Sac county,

and to this marriage have been born seven children, six of whom are living: Eldora, born December 23, 1901; Evelina, born August 19, 1904; Albert, born February 16, 1907; Harry, born June 2, 1909; Emma, born August 12, 1912; Theodore, born October 11, 1900, and died a year later; Frederick, born November 28, 1913.

In politics, Mr. Dettmann is independent, believing that the interests of his community and county, as well state, will be the best served by voting for the right man at all times irrespective of political affiliations. He and the members of his family are earnest adherents of the German Lutheran church and give generously to its support. Mr. Dettmann is a man of generous impulses and because of his public-spirited way and mingling in all the civic and other enterprises of his community, he is highly regarded by all of those with whom he is associated.

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#### CHRISTIAN SCHAEFER.

It is not conceivable that a complete history of Sac county could be written without taking due cognizance of the fact that a sturdy and thrifty German element has had considerable to do with the settlement and development of the county. At the present time the younger generation of the German-American population are firmly intrenched in the component make-up of the body politic and are the leaders of progress in their communities. The older pioneers are a substantial class of well-to-do citizens who have borne the brunt of the fight for conquest of the wilderness and are now calmly and contentedly enjoying the fruits of their earlier endeavors. Christian Schaefer belongs to the class of capable and energetic Germans, who, coming to the United States, endowed with an inherited equipment for success as tillers of the soil, sometimes achieve it in large degree.

Born in the rural district of Germany, December 28, 1840, Christian Schaefer came to this country at the age of six years in company with his parents, Frederick and Fredericka Schaefer, in 1847. The family settled in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and there hewed a home out of the forest wilderness. They migrated to Alamakee county, Iowa, in 1864. Years later, after several of the children had located in Sac county, the aged father and mother followed them and ended their days on a farm in Eden township. The Schaefer children were: Christian; Fred, a soldier in the Union army who gave his life in defense of his country, dying while in the service; Mary,



CHRISTIAN SCHAEFFER AND FAMILY.



deceased in Wisconsin; Simon died in Wisconsin; William, a resident of Schaller; Mrs. Sophia Hahne, of Schaller; Mrs. Lena Sonneman, a resident of Canada; Henry, of Mason City.

Mr. Schaefer is the oldest living settler of Eden township in point of years of residence in the community. May 17, 1870, marked an epoch in the history of the northern part of Sac county, for it was on this day that a little band of homeseekers from Alamahee county, consisting of Christian Schaefer, Christian Lucke, Fred Hahne and Adolph Martin, crossed the Boyer river and entered the promised land. The smiling prairies beckoned them onward and invited them to abide with it and teach the bosom of the flower and grass-covered landscape to yield forth its riches of grain and edibles. These men were the first settlers of Eden township west of the Boyer river, and journeyed from the town of Waukon, Alamahee county. Henry Luhman followed in the fall of the same year. Previous to this migration, Fred Hahne and Christ Lucke had made a trip to the section in July of 1869 and spied out the territory for the purpose of locating the following year. These German-Americans were the actual and bona fide settlers who remained to develop the country; but they had been preceded by two men, a Mr. Hibner and Walter Toll, who did not become permanent settlers in the neighborhood.

Christian Schaefer settled on the east half of section 17, in Eden township, which he purchased for five dollars an acre. His first place of abode was a small shanty, fourteen by sixteen feet in dimensions, in which he lived for the first summer and then, in the fall, erected a larger house, fourteen by twenty-two, in which he resided until 1882, when he built a large two-story house on the same site, and here he lived and reared his large family until July, 1906, when he and his faithful helpmeet moved to a comfortable home in the nearby town of Schaller. To tell of the early struggles this pioneer family endured in making a home out of the wilderness would require a longer chapter than the one which we are writing. Suffice to say, that Christ Schaefer overcame his early difficulties with true fortitude, reared a large family and amassed a competence sufficient to insure comfort or even luxury in his declining years and enabled him to give each of his many children a fitting start in the battle of life. He is the owner of five hundred and twenty acres of the best Sac county land and also possesses eight hundred acres of rich land in South Dakota. He is a progressive Republican in politics and keeps closely abreast of developments which are having a tendency to revolutionize the existing order of things in this land, and he is



heartily in favor of good, honest government in behalf of all the people. He is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Schaefer's wedded life began on April 21, 1865, when he took for his life helpmeet Minnie Pertner, who was born in Germany in 1846, and came to America with her parents, Fred and Lottie Pertner, in 1854. They settled in Alamakee county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer are the proud parents of fourteen children, thirteen of whom are now living and grown to stalwart manhood and womanhood. The children of this estimable couple are: Mrs. Alvina Woodke, of Schaller; Mrs. Mary Lemke, Denison, Iowa; Fred, a minister at Eureka, South Dakota; Alfred, a citizen of Warren, Illinois; August, a resident of Parker, South Dakota; Philip, also of Parker, South Dakota; Walter, a farmer near Windfred, South Dakota; William and Mrs. Elizabeth Wendt, of Parker, South Dakota; Reuben, of Greenville, Iowa; John, who cultivates a part of the old homestead farm; Leo, of Parker, South Dakota; Mrs. Lillie Buehler, residing near Odebolt, Iowa. They have thirty-six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The biographer doubts very much if a single settler in Sac county has made a more enviable and praiseworthy record than he of whom this review is written. For the benefit and inspiration of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and for the perusal by the many warm friends of this aged and respected couple, this chronicle is respectfully submitted. That it may be a lasting tribute to their accomplishments and be a valued memento in years to come is the wish of the historian.

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#### EDWARD S. RINGGENBERG.

Any person who will investigate the facts in the case will be surprised to learn of the great number of people of Germanic descent now living in the United States. Unquestionably the greatest number of emigrants reaching the shores of the New World comes from that nation, and statistics show that there is more Germanic blood in the United States than any other. This being a fact, it is easy to account for the prosperity and morality of this country. Not only that, but it will afford an explanation for the love of learning shown by the people of this vast nation. Germany is famous the world over for its remarkable universities, for its educated men, for its poets and philosophers, and for the industry, patience, intelligence, morality and sturdiness of its citizens. These qualities have been brought to this country

by the immigrants, and are now part and parcel of our wonderful nation—its progress in domestic economy, its advancement in every branch of material improvement and its love of country and home.

Edward S. Ringgenberg, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in Polk county, Iowa, on September 15, 1874, and is the son of Peter and Anna (Imboden) Ringgenberg, natives respectively of Ohio and Germany. Peter Ringgenberg and wife were early settlers in Polk county, Iowa, where they came in the sixties. They reared a family of twelve children.

E. S. Ringgenberg is a fine type of a successful German settler of Sac county. In 1894 he left the parental roof in Polk county and journeyed to Sac City with fifty cents in his pocket. He then walked ten miles to his brother's home in Calhoun county, and, due to the fact that there was a short corn crop in that county and little work to do, he came back to Sac county and shucked corn for the farmers in this county, saved every possible cent and rented a piece of ground, where from the first he was successful. The short space of twenty years, with a working basis of fifty cents in 1894, has attained for him at least fifty thousand dollars, all of which has been made by good, honest work. He first bought eighty acres in Calhoun county at twenty-eight and a half dollars an acre and lived on it two years. This he sold and bought one hundred and twenty acres at thirty-five dollars an acre elsewhere in Calhoun county; afterward he added forty acres to this in the same county, paying seventy-seven and a half dollars an acre. In the spring of 1909 he bought a farm in Sac county, adjoining Lytton, for which he paid one hundred and twenty-two and a half dollars an acre. In February of 1914 he and his brothers bought two hundred and forty acres in Buena Vista county at a cost of one hundred and sixty-six dollars an acre. The Sac county land is now easily worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre and the Calhoun land one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. In 1913 his Sac county farm, which lies near Lytton, produced sixty-five bushels of corn to the acre. He had thirty-five acres of oats which averaged fifty bushels to the acre. He keeps on an average of thirteen horses, ten head of cattle and seventy-five hogs each year. His farms are well improved in every way, including good buildings, fencing and extensive drainage systems.

Mr. Ringgenberg was married in the spring of 1897 to Ida Dunaway, of Calhoun county, Iowa, and to this marriage have been born six children, all of whom are still at home: Iva, Pearl, Rosetta, Leon, Clarence and Leota. In politics Mr. Ringgenberg is a stanch Democrat, but his large agricultural interests prevent his taking an active part in politics. He and his

family are members of the Lutheran church and give it their earnest support. Mr. Ringgenberg is a man who is highly respected, because of his correct principles and clean manner of life. He has conquered adversity and has won, not only pecuniary independence, but what is far greater and higher, the respect and confidence of those with whom his active years have been spent.

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### WALTER T. HIGHLAND.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Sac county the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, the gentleman whose name appears above occupies a prominent place and for years he has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality where he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive, and every-day common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

Walter T. Highland, ex-trustee and a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, Sac county, Iowa, was born on June 4, 1847, in Bradford, Orange county, Vermont. His parents were Thomas and Eliza (Grow) Highland. In 1866 the Highland family moved to Sauk county, Wisconsin, and ten years later settled in Sac City, this state, where the father and mother both died in 1902. Thomas Highland and wife were the parents of two children, John M., of Sac City, and W. T., whose history is portrayed in this connection.

Walter T. Highland first came to Sac City September 19, 1872, by immigrant wagon, accompanied by his wife, and shortly afterward settled in Jackson township on section 1. He purchased eighty acres of land at ten dollars an acre, later adding another eighty, for which he paid thirty-one dollars an acre. This one hundred and sixty acres he improved in various ways, built buildings, and resided on it until 1902, then sold it for eighty dollars an acre and bought his present farm in Jackson and Cedar townships for which he paid sixty dollars an acre. He also bought five acres with good buildings, within the corporate limits of Sac City, which cost him three thousand dollars. He now owns ninety-two acres in all, and his land is rapidly increasing in value year by year.

Mr. Highland was married on January 18, 1870, at Merrimac, Sauk county, Wisconsin, to Helen M. Shell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David

Shell. She was born in Waddington, St. Lawrence county, New York, November 8, 1848, and removed to Sauk county, Wisconsin, in 1850. To this union have been born two children, Clyde W., who was born in 1878 and is now a farmer on the home farm. Clyde was married in 1912 to Ethel Hayden and has one daughter, Maurine. Ethel, the other child of Mr. and Mrs. Highland, died at the age of fourteen months and eighteen days.

Politically, Mr. Highland is a Republican and has always taken a prominent part in local politics. He is a man of good judgment and business ability and his fellow citizens have entrusted him with various offices during the course of his residence in this county. An indication of the respect and esteem in which he is held in his township is shown by the fact that he has been township trustee for fifteen years in Jackson township. In addition he has held other offices of trust, all of which he has filled to the entire satisfaction of his constituents, due to his faithful and efficient administration of the various duties connected with them. He and his family are regular attendants of the Presbyterian church and give it their earnest support. Mr. Highland is a fine type of the farmer, who is not only able to attend to his agricultural interests, but also takes an intelligent interest in the body politic.

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### JOSEPH S. YOUNG.

In the history of Sac county, Iowa, as applying to the agricultural interests, the name of Joseph S. Young occupies a conspicuous place, for through a number of years he has been one of the representative farmers of Cedar township, progressive, enterprising and persevering. Such qualities always win success, sooner or later, and to Mr. Young they have brought a satisfactory reward for his well-directed effort, and while he has benefited himself and community in a material way, he has also been an influential factor in the educational, political and moral uplift of the community favored by his residence.

Joseph S. Young, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born March 20, 1853, in Athens county, Ohio, the son of Alexander and Caroline (Herrold) Young, both of whom were natives of that county. Alexander Young was born in 1826, and died in 1895, being sixty-nine years, seven months and twenty-seven days old at the time of his death. His widow died June 17, 1909, at the age of eighty-eight years, and was the oldest pioneer woman of Sac county at the time of her death. They

were the parents of three children: Harriett, who died in 1868; W. S., who is now a farmer in the northwestern part of Alberta, Canada, and Joseph S. Alexander Young and family left Ohio in 1855 and located in Laporte county, Indiana, where they lived for five years. In the fall of 1860 the family went farther West, locating in Louisa county, Iowa, where they entered land. In 1870 they came to Sac county, and settled on the farm where Joseph S. is now living.

Joseph S. Young has lived on the homestead farm in this county ever since his parents purchased it, with the exception of three years when they lived in Sac City to educate the children. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres was bought in 1870 by his father for five dollars an acre and is today worth at least two hundred dollars an acre. At that time, of course, there were no fences, no drainage, no improvements of any kind. The farm is now well drained, has buildings of convenience and attractive appearance, which add greatly to the value of the farm. Mr. Young remodeled his home in 1903 and now has a fine home which is modern and up-to-date in every way. He has a large barn and corn cribs, which are sufficiently commodious to accommodate his crops and stock. He keeps on an average about eight head of horses and eighteen head of cattle a year and makes a specialty of the breeding of Duroc Jersey hogs. Mr. Young was married in 1880 to Mary Maxwell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Maxwell, of Illinois, and to this union have been born six children, five of whom are living: Howard, of Sac City, who is married and has two children, Kenneth and Robert; Minnie, who is a twin sister to Howard, married Elmer Cox and lives in this township on a farm near Sac City; Harriet, the wife of J. C. Harper, of Oakland, California, has one daughter, Vivian; Woodward, who was drowned in the river at Sac City at the age of seventeen years in the fall of 1901 while skating; Linus, who is with his parents on the old homestead farm, and Catherine, who was a graduate in June, 1904, from the high school at Sac City.

Mr. Young has taken a prominent part in the politics of his township and county and has identified himself with the Republican party, who, recognizing his worth as a man and his ability as an official, nominated him for the office of assessor and he was elected as township assessor of Cedar township, and performed the important duties of that office to the entire satisfaction of all his fellow citizens, irrespective of party lines. He and his family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and render it substantial support. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes a deep interest in the deliberations of this fraternal organiza-

tion. Mr. Young is a man who has gained the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens because of his frank and upright manner at all times. He is a plain and unassuming man who attends strictly to his own business and yet is always found working for the best welfare of his community.

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### THOMAS LONGMAN.

To write the personal record of men who raised themselves from humble circumstances to a position of responsibility and trust in a community is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, men who have achieved success by reason of their personal qualities and left the impress of their individuality upon the business and growth of their place of residence and affect for good such institutions as are embraced in the sphere of their usefulness, unwittingly, perhaps, built monuments more enduring than marble obelisk or granite shaft. Of such we have the unquestionable right to say belongs the gentleman whose name appears above.

Thomas Longman, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born March 13, 1855, in Holloman county, Ontario, Canada, and is the son of George and Julia (Murphy) Longman. His parents were natives respectively of England and Canada. George Longman and wife came to Illinois in 1869, when Thomas was about fourteen years of age, and in 1889 the parents moved to Nebraska, where they lived the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of fourteen children, eight of whom are still living.

Thomas Longman was educated in the schools of Illinois, and when twenty-six years of age began farming for himself in that state. For the first ten years he rented land and by thrift and economy he saved sufficient money so that he felt able to go West and purchase a farm of his own. Accordingly, in 1893 he went to Nebraska, where he purchased a farm, but sold it three years later. He then came to Sac county, Iowa, where he rented land for twelve years in Coon Valley and Jackson townships, and such was his success in farming that he was able, in 1908, to buy his present farm of two hundred acres, for which he paid sixty-six dollars an acre, and has improved it in various ways until it is now easily worth two hundred dollars an acre. In 1913 he had eight horses, twenty-five head of cattle and other live stock upon his farm. He has made a notable success of farming since coming to this county, and is rightly regarded as one of the best



farmers of the township. He keeps well informed on all the latest developments in agricultural work and does not hesitate to depart from old and established methods if he believes he can improve his farm in any way.

Mr. Longman was married in 1883 to Bridget Maria Finnegan, of Illinois, and to this marriage have been born five sons and two daughters, Arthur, Edward, Leo, Hugh, Roy, Marguerite and Winifred. The last four children are still at home with their parents, while the others are farming in other parts of this county. It has been said that success comes to those who deserve it, and if this be the case, Mr. Longman has certainly deserved it, as he has worked hard for his property and what he has gained has been earned by the sweat of his brow, and he is well deserving of a place in the list of representative men of Sac county.

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### J. REESE DRURY.

The gentleman to whom the reader's attention is now directed was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends, but in spite of these, by perseverance, industry and a wise economy, he has attained a comfortable station in life, and is well and favorably known throughout Sac county as a result of the industrious life he has lived here for many years, being regarded by all who know him as a man of sound business principles, thoroughly up to date in all phases of agriculture and stock raising and as a man who, while advancing his individual interests, does not neglect his general duties as a citizen.

J. Reese Drury, a substantial farmer of Boyer Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, was born April 25, 1852, in Mercer county, Illinois. His parents, Isaiah and Margaret Jane (Leach) Drury, were both natives of Indiana and moved to Marshall county, Iowa, in 1862, where they resided until 1884, when they moved to Louisiana, where Isaiah Drury died. Isaiah Drury and wife were the parents of nine children: Samuel, of Marshall county, Iowa; Mrs. Mahala Daugherty, of Marshall county; J. Reese, with whom this narrative deals; Albert, of Marshall county; Mrs. Mary Ellen Cline, of Louisiana; Lafayette, of Oregon; William, of Nebraska; Clara, of Louisiana, and James A., of this township.

J. Reese Drury was educated in the district schools of Marshall county, and remained on the home farm to assist his father until he was twenty-one years of age. He then began farming for himself in Marshall county and later owned a farm of one hundred and thirty acres in that county. In the





J. REESE DRURY AND FAMILY



spring of 1880 he sold this farm and moved to Sac county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land in Boyer Valley township for eight dollars an acre. He planted fruit trees and improved the place in other ways so that he was able to greatly enhance its value. He continued to operate this farm until 1901, when he sold it to his brother, James A., who is now living on it. The next year he purchased his present farm of two hundred and forty acres, for which he paid sixty dollars an acre. He had intended to locate in Lyon county, after selling his farm in 1901, and bought a farm there, but later decided to sell it and return to Sac county. The land which he purchased in 1902 in this county for sixty dollars an acre is now easily worth two hundred dollars an acre, so Mr. Drury feels that he made no mistake in locating in this township. He feeds the grain which he raises on his farm to his own stock and annually produces about fifty head of cattle and one carload of hogs for the market. He has a fine home, good barns and outbuildings. In order to take care of his stock through the winter months he has erected a silo, and finds this to be one of the most useful buildings on his farm.

Mr. Drury was married on March 21, 1875, to Sarah A. Cline, who was born in Linn county, Iowa, December 27, 1858, and is the daughter of Jacob and Mary Ann Cline, natives of Pennsylvania and Ireland, respectively. To this marriage there have been born seven children: Rush Leander, of Sac county, Iowa, who was born in 1876; Mrs. Lewis Simpson, who has three children, Crystal, Leland and Millard, and they live in Chickasaw, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth A. Jensen, of Sac City, who has one son, Milton, aged four; Mrs. Clara Steele, of Sac county, who has one son, Clarence; Ruby May; Ollie Reese and Charles Roosevelt. The last three children are still with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Drury is affiliated with the Republican party and takes an intelligent interest in the current issues of the day. All of the family are attendants of the Presbyterian church and give to it of their time and means. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ancient Order of United Workmen, Modern Woodmen of America and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Mr. Drury has been honest and successful in his chosen field of endeavor, by applying those principles of honesty and integrity, which always insures success if rightly followed. He has done his duty as a loyal American citizen, by taking his full share of the responsibilities of his community and accordingly is entitled to a position in this volume of representative men of Sac county.

## JAMES DAVID CORSAUT.

An enumeration of the representative citizens of Sac county would be incomplete without specific mention of the well known and popular gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. A member of one of the old and highly esteemed families of this locality and for many years a public-spirited man of affairs, he has stamped the impress of his individuality upon the community and added luster to the honorable name which he bears, having always been actuated by a spirit of fairness in his dealings with the world in general, and leaving no stone unturned whereby he might benefit his own condition as well as that of his friends and the favored section of the great commonwealth in which he has been content to spend his life. Straightforward and unassuming, genial and obliging, Mr. Corsaut enjoys the good will and respect of a wide circle of friends throughout this part of the state.

James David Corsaut, the son of David and Sarah (Hunt) Corsaut, was born January 12, 1870, in Michigan. David Corsaut was born near London City, Canada, in 1839. His wife, Sarah Hunt, came from England to Canada when she was three years of age. In 1885 David Corsaut and family came to Butler county, Iowa, and a year later moved to Hamilton county, where they stayed for six years. In the spring of 1892 they came to Sac county and settled on a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Jackson township, where Mr. and Mrs. David Corsaut are now living. They were the parents of six children, five of whom are living: Will and Charles King are at home; James David, whose history is herein delineated; Mrs. Emma Hendrickson, of Sac City, Iowa; Mrs. Zadie Kier, of Spencer, Iowa, and Hannah, who died at the age of two.

James David Corsaut received his education in the public schools of Michigan and Iowa and worked with his father on his large farm until his marriage in 1900. He is cultivating a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres owned by the family and raises a considerable amount of stock in addition to his general farming. He and his father and brothers make a specialty of the breeding of Percherons. They have three fine stallions, one of which, "Cato," was imported from Belgium. In 1913 they had nineteen head of horses and forty head of cattle. They always have a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle, and adds not a little to his annual income from the sale of this cattle.

Mr. Corsaut was married January 10, 1900, to Margaret Rebecca Gishwiller, the daughter of Nicholas Gishwiller, the mayor of Sac City. This marriage has been blessed with four children, all of whom are at home:

Frances Alvira, aged fourteen; Dwight James, aged twelve; Zadie Emma, aged ten, and Lorne Fuller, aged eight.

In his political relations, Mr. Corsaut has allied himself with the Republican party, but, owing to his many interests, he has not been able to take an active part in political affairs. The family are all members of the Presbyterian church and give it their earnest support at all times. Mr. Corsaut is a member of the Yeomen and is very much interested in the activities of that order. Two of his children, Dwight and Lorne, drew first prizes in a declamatory contest recently, which was held by the Yeomen. Mr. Corsaut is one of the most important stock raisers in the county and has been identified with the material growth and prosperity of this section of the state. By his straightforward and commendable course he has won his way to a respectable position in the life of his community and has earned a reputation as an enterprising man of affairs.

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#### THEA HUSER.

Our nation owes much of its progressiveness to the infusion of the Germanic element amongst its population, for in all walks of life they have been found efficient, energetic and patient, enduring with fortitude the hardships of pioneer life and doing their full share in the work of pushing forward the wheels of progress wherever they have located. There is scarcely a locality in the Union that has not felt their strong and ameliorating influence, consequently they have ever been most welcome here and all honor is due them.

Thea Huser, a prominent stock buyer and farmer of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in Germany on April 29, 1864. His parents were David and Christina (Zirike) Huser. The Huser family came to America in 1873 and settled in Des Moines, Iowa, but shortly afterwards moved to a farm in Polk county, near Des Moines, where the mother died on March 16, 1878. David Huser died at the home of his son in Sac county on April 27, 1895. David Huser and wife were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living in the United States: Frank, of Des Moines; Mrs. Christian Ashing, of Chamberlain, South Dakota; Mrs. Minnie Beadle, of Butte, Montana; Harry, of Teco, Washington; Henry, of Missoula, Montana, and Thea.

Thea Huser received a very limited education in his native land before

coming to this country, and, owing to the fact that his parents were very poor, upon their arrival in this country he had to start out to help support the family, so the nine-year-old Thea was bound out to a neighboring farmer, who paid him three dollars a month and gave him his board and clothes. As he grew older his wages increased and he saved every possible cent that he could. He did all kinds of honest work and was never afraid to tackle anything which would give him an honest wage. He came to Sac county on his marriage in the spring of 1895 and bought one hundred acres of land in Cedar township, paying thirty-six dollars an acre for the land. He has put all of the improvements on the place which it now has, and in 1902, in partnership with David Lewis, he bought a half section of land in Jackson township for forty-three dollars an acre. The next year he sold this and bought one hundred and thirty acres at sixty-five dollars an acre. In 1907 he bought forty acres in Jackson township, at seventy-seven dollars and a half per acre, and later bought an adjoining forty for eighty dollars an acre. In the same year, 1909, he and C. F. Brobeil purchased three hundred and twenty acres in Cedar township, for which they paid one hundred and five dollars an acre. As a result of all of his buying and selling of real estate he now owns four hundred and seventy acres, which lie in three farms. In addition to his large agricultural interests, he buys a large amount of live stock every year and feeds it on his own farms, and has averaged for the past two years over two hundred head of live stock annually, his sales amounting to from twenty to twenty-five car loads each year. He has improved his farm in every way and has spent thousands of dollars in tiling and ditching his land. His home farm at the present time is worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre and could not be purchased at that price.

Mr. Huser was married in 1895 at Ankeny, Iowa, to Minnie Swartfager, of Des Moines, Iowa, who was born near Des Moines on November 27, 1861, the daughter of Frank and Anna Swartfager, natives of Germany and Pennsylvania, respectively. To this marriage has been born one son, Harry, who is now aged thirteen years. Politically, Mr. Huser is a Republican, but his business interests have prevented him from taking an active part in the affairs of his party. He and his wife are zealous members of the Presbyterian church and are interested in the various activities of that denomination. Mr. Huser takes an active interest in everything pertaining to agricultural affairs, and is one of the stockholders of the Sac County Fair Association. He is at present the president of the association and is doing everything within his power to make the fair a real benefit to the farmers of his county. Personally, Mr. Huser is a very likable man and has a host

of friends throughout the county. It is evident that his selection as president of the Sac County Fair Association is the result of his popularity among the farmers of the county who recognized in him a man who was deeply interested in agricultural affairs.

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### FRED LEROY BLAIR, M. D.

Devoted to the noble work which his profession implies, the gentleman whose career we essay to briefly outline in the following paragraphs has been faithful and indefatigable in his endeavors and has not only earned the due rewards of his efforts in a temporal way, but has also proved himself eminently worthy to exercise the important functions of his calling, by reason of his ability, his abiding sympathy and his earnest zeal in behalf of his fellowmen. His understanding of the science of medicine is regarded by those who know him as being broad and comprehensive, and the profession and the public accord him a distinguished place among the men of his class in Iowa. His has been a life of earnest and persistent endeavor, such as always brings a true appreciation of the real value of human existence, a condition that must be prolific of good results in all the relations of life.

Dr. Fred Leroy Blair, the son of John B. and Sylvia (Allen) Blair, was born March 7, 1879, in Elm Grove township, Calhoun county, Iowa. His father was born in Darlington, Wisconsin, in 1840 and died in this township August 22, 1912. The mother of Doctor Blair is still living at Yetter, Iowa. John B. Blair and his wife, with four children, came from Wisconsin in 1873 to Calhoun county. They drove through with a team and had all of their household goods in the wagon. They first settled in Elm Grove township and homesteaded one hundred and twenty acres, where John Blair lived and died. John Blair was a gallant soldier of the Civil War, enlisting in Company I, Third Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, at the outbreak of the war and serving throughout. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta and with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. After getting the land in this county, Mr. Blair improved it in every way, fenced, drained and erected good buildings, making it a very productive farm. John Blair and wife were the parents of eleven children, four were born in Wisconsin and the last seven in Iowa; two died in infancy and the other nine living are as follows: Mrs. G. V. Yepson, of Calhoun county, Iowa; Mrs. Jasper Yepson, of Yetter, Iowa;



William B., who died of apoplexy in South Dakota in 1911; L. J., a farmer of Calhoun county; F. C., a farmer of Calhoun county; Dr. Fred L.; E. J., of Calhoun county; Ralph, of Yetter, Iowa, and Harry A., of Calhoun county.

Dr. Fred L. Blair was educated in the common schools of his home township and later attended the State Normal School at Cedar Falls. He took his medical course at the State University of Iowa, graduating June 16, 1905, from that institution. The day after he was graduated he located in Lytton, opened his office and has had a lucrative practice from the first. One week from the time Doctor Blair located here, he was married to Marion Reilly, of Yetter, Calhoun county, Iowa, and to this union have been born four children: Fred Leroy, Jr., born May 2, 1906; Peter, born January 16, 1908; Harold, born February 6, 1910, and Bernardine, born June 22, 1913.

In politics, Doctor Blair is a Republican, but the nature of his profession prevents him from taking a very active part in politics. He and his wife are regular attendants of the Presbyterian church, and give to it their earnest support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and has taken all of the degrees up to and including the thirty-second. He is a member of the Mystic Shrine of Sioux City, having taken the degrees December 5, 1913; he is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Yeomen and Modern Woodmen of America. Doctor Blair takes a great interest in his work, is a member of the various societies and associations which cater to the medical profession, among which are the Sac County, Iowa State and American Medical Associations. Doctor Blair's success so far indicates that he will have a long and useful career before him.

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#### ED. WILLIAMS.

It is a pleasure to investigate the career of a successful, self-made man. Peculiar honor attaches to that individual who, beginning the great struggle of life alone and unaided, gradually overcomes unfavorable environment, removes one by one the obstacles from the pathway of success and by the master strokes of his own force and vitality succeeds in forging his way to the front and winning for himself a competency and a position of esteem and influence among his fellow men. Such is the record of the popular citizen of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, to a brief synopsis of whose life and character the following pages are devoted.

Ed. Williams, one of the older farmers of the county, was born May

23, 1859, in Polk county, Iowa, and is the son of John and Caroline (Fletcher) Williams. John Williams was a native of Sweden and came to New York city when a small boy. His wife was born in Ireland, and likewise came to New York city when a young lady. The young couple later met, were married in New York city, immediately came West and settled in Polk county, Iowa, being among the very first pioneers in that county, and they spent the remainder of their lives there, Mr. Williams dying in 1902, and his wife in March, 1904. They reared a family of eight children, six of whom are living: John and Mrs. Ella Sargent, of Polk county; Isaac and Ed., of Sac county, and Mrs. Rose Allen, of Des Moines.

Ed. Williams was reared in Polk county, this state, receiving his education in the schools of his home neighborhood. He worked on his father's farm until he came to Sac county in the spring of 1892, bought his farm and rented out the farm on which he lives for a short time, until fall when he moved to Sac county to reside on his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid thirty dollars an acre. He has thoroughly drained this farm since purchasing it and improved it with buildings, fences and tiling until the land is today worth two hundred dollars an acre. At a low estimate he has placed over ten thousand dollars worth of improvements upon the farm within the last twenty years. It is needless to say that he has been a successful farmer. In 1912 he had seventy-five acres of corn which averaged seventy bushels to the acre. This last year (1913) he had seventy acres in corn, which averaged forty bushels to the acre. He keeps on an average each year five head of horses and from nine to seventy-five head of cattle annually, and raises seventy-five to one hundred head of hogs. When he came to this farm he had to go into debt for part of the purchase price and the farm at that time had no tiling, little fencing and only a small house and a straw stable. He owns one hundred and sixty acres in Brookings county, South Dakota, near Aurora. Mr. Williams deserves great credit for the remarkable improvements which he has brought about in the character of his farm within the last score of years, and it is safe to say that he has done as much within that time as any other farmer in the township in public as well as his own private affairs.

Mr. Williams has always taken an active part in the body politic and as a Republican has served as township trustee for six years, township school treasurer for sixteen years, and has held other township offices of trust and responsibility.

Mr. Williams was formerly a director and organizer of the Farmers Savings Bank; is president of the Farmers Elevator Company; president of

the Farmers Lumber Company, and is a director of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Sac county.

Mr. Williams has been twice married, his first marriage occurring on December 4, 1886, to Myrtle Kellison, who died March 18, 1899, leaving two children, only one of whom is now living, Georgia, who is now at home with her father, while Edna died at the age of ten years. Mr. Williams was married the second time on May 16, 1900, to Fannie Norton, of Marshall county, this state, and the daughter of Levi and Catherine (Gilmore) Norton, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Ireland, respectively, and were among the early homestead settlers (in 1855) of Marshall county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Williams attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which denomination Mrs. Williams is a member, and contributes liberally of their means to its support. They are genial people, who have a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the community, who admire them for their many good qualities.

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### JOSEPH KEISER.

There are several hundred German descendants in Sac county who have come to this county to make their homes because they felt that it was one of the best farming counties in the United States. The success which has attended them in their efforts along agricultural lines in this county shows that they have not been mistaken. While it is true that German farmers could make a good living anywhere, yet, under the favorable conditions which are found in this county, a great majority of them have risen to positions of affluence. Among the many substantial German farmers of this county, Joseph Keiser occupies a prominent place.

Mr. Keiser was born February 28, 1834, in Germany and is the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Keiser. His parents came to America in 1852 and stayed in New York with an uncle for a few years. They then moved to Wisconsin, where they lived the remainder of their days.

Joseph Keiser received his education in the schools of Germany and accompanied his parents to this country and lived with them in New York, and later in Wisconsin. Before the death of his parents, in Wisconsin, he was married on April 6, 1863, to Adeline Smith. His wife was born June 18, 1840, in Switzerland, and is the daughter of John Martin and Magdalena (Frei) Smith. Her parents came to America in 1852, and settled near Milwaukee, Wisconsin.





MRS. ADELINE KEISER



JOSEPH KEISER





Mr. and Mrs. Keiser continued to live in Wisconsin until 1867, when they went to Tama county, Iowa. In the spring of 1876 they came to Sac county and lived on a rented place near Wall Lake for one year. In the winter of 1877, they built a house, fourteen by thirty-four feet in size, on their newly-purchased farm of one hundred and sixty acres, purchased in 1874 in Clinton township, and moved into it in the spring of 1877, in time to go through with the "grasshopper war" of that year. They have been hard workers and now have all the comforts of life. Since buying their first one hundred and sixty acres of land, they have added two other quarter sections, so that they now own four hundred and eighty acres of land, one hundred and sixty acres of which is in Calhoun county. They have a fine home, set back from the highway in the midst of a large grove of stately trees.

Mr. and Mrs. Keiser have reared a family of ten children. It is interesting to note that two of the children were born in Wisconsin, two in Tama county, Iowa, and six in Sac county, Iowa. The children, in order of their birth, are as follows: Edmund, of Spencer, Iowa, who is married and has two children, Earl and Ruth; Ida; Albert, of Wisconsin; Ralph, of Calhoun county, who is married and has two sons, Clifford and Lester; Mattie; Mrs. Agnes Weitzel, who has one daughter, June; Ida; Adolph; Walter; Maud and Austin. Of these children, Ida, Mattie, Adolph, Walter, Maud and Austin are still at home with their parents. Clara died in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Keiser is a Republican, but has never taken an active part in political affairs. The members of the family are all faithful attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and contribute generously to its support. Mr. and Mrs. Keiser have lived together more than fifty years, having celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in April of 1913. They have seen this county grow from a broad prairie to its present prosperous condition and have had their full share in bringing about this change. They can tell many interesting incidents of the early life of this county and the many trials and tribulations which were endured by the early settlers. They are kindly, genial people, who are hospitable to their friends and neighbors, and are always willing to do more than their share to alleviate any suffering or distress in their community. Such people are a blessing to the locality in which they live, and Mr. and Mrs. Keiser are people of whom any community should be proud. Surrounded by their children, they are now enjoying the fruits of their earlier arduous labors and are receiving the most loving care and attention from their daughters, who are deserving of commendation for the attention given to their aged parents and for their intelligence and

aptitude in relieving the parents from the cares which have been theirs for many years. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Keiser is one of which any parents should well be proud. The sons are sturdy, energetic fellows who are ambitious farmers and have been trusted with the work of the extensive Keiser farm for several years past. Could the sunset and the evening of all lives be as blessed and comfortable as those of Joseph Keiser and his good wife the world would indeed be a better place in which to live.

An interesting postscript could be added to this memoir of the Keiser family which will prove to be a matter of history. An account of the great fire which visited the homestead in the evening of March 25, 1914, is appropriate and belongs in this family history. The barn and outbuildings were discovered to be all ablaze on the evening aforementioned, and the efforts of the family and numerous neighbors who came to their assistance, went for naught and the high wind caused a veritable holocaust. The great barn, corn cribs and adjacent buildings were burned to the ground. Four head of cattle and thirteen calves were lost in the fire, but the great part of the live stock, including the farm horses, were saved. The buildings and stock were well insured and during the summer of 1914 a new and modern barn with all the latest conveniences for storing the products of the farm and housing of the live stock was erected. The main building is seventy-two by forty-eight feet in extent and is one of the finest farm buildings in Sac county. The timely assistance and the kindness of the neighbors met with the heartfelt appreciation from the Keiser family.

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#### DEWITT G. SCHENCK.

Among the farmers of Sac county, Iowa, who believe in following twentieth-century methods is DeWitt G. Schenck, of Cedar township. He comes of a splendid family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits, for education and morality, and for all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Such people are welcomed in any community, for they are empire builders and as such have pushed the frontier of civilization ever westward and onward, leaving the green, wide-reaching wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields; they have constituted that sterling horde which caused the great Bishop Whipple to write the memorable line, "Westward the course of empire takes its way."

DeWitt G. Schenck, proprietor of a two-hundred-acre farm in Cedar

township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in 1869 in Illinois, the son of William T. and Isabelle (Brown) Schenck, who were natives of Ohio and New York, respectively. His father is of German descent and his mother traces her ancestry back to the early English colonists. William T. Schenck came to Sac county in 1908, and has a farm in Cedar township. His first wife died in July, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. William T. Schenck were the parents of four children: Mrs. Laura Mendenhall, of Cedar township; Mrs. Armenia Belle Heiserman, of this township; Mrs. Grace Mullins, of Jackson township, this county; D. G., whose history is here presented. By a second marriage William T. had one son, Daniel, of Sac City.

DeWitt G. Schenck was educated in the schools of Illinois and farmed in that state until the spring of 1897, at which time he came to Sac county and rented a farm for the first three years of his residence here, after which he bought one hundred and sixty acres at forty-seven dollars an acre. In 1908 he purchased an additional forty acres, for which he paid eighty-eight dollars an acre. His two-hundred-acre farm is now well worth two hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre, as he has improved it in every way, built all the buildings on the place, which has two houses, barns and other outbuildings, and he has spent a small fortune on tiling alone. He was the first Illinois farmer to lay drain tile for the purpose of draining his land, an example which has been followed widely since the farmers of the county have noticed the success which attended his farming of his tiled fields. He has put up over one thousand dollars worth of woven wire fencing, put twenty-five hundred dollars into tiling and several thousand dollars into buildings, and it is easy to see why his farm is now worth the price mentioned above. In 1913 he had on his farm thirty-five head of cattle, seven head of hogs, seventeen head of horses and twenty-five head of sheep, eighty-five acres of corn which averaged forty-five bushels to the acre, while his other crops were in proportion. In addition to his grains, he is a breeder of blooded Shorthorn cattle, which adds not a little to his annual income.

Politically, Mr. Schenck is a Republican and has taken an active part in the affairs of his party. He has served as township trustee, township assessor and as school director of his school district, and in all of these offices he has rendered faithful and efficient service. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has been a member of that fraternal order for the past twenty-three years, holding his membership in Lodge No. 314, at Maori, Illinois. He is a member of the Christian church and gives to it his generous support.

Mr. Schenck has been twice married, his first marriage being in 1890.

to Clara E. Mendenhall, a native of Ohio, and her death occurred in 1896, leaving two children, Mrs. Ethel Weohl and Homer. Mr. and Mrs. Weohl are now living on the home farm, while Homer is living on his grandfather's farm. In 1897 Mr. Schenck was married to Flora Mendenhall, also born in Ohio, and to this marriage have been born two children, Hilda and Robert.

The achievements of Mr. Schenck represent endeavor along lines where mature judgment has opened the way. He possesses a weight of character and discriminating judgment that have won the respect and approval of all with whom he has been associated.

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### JACOB J. IBEL.

Among the citizens of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable landed estates and personal property, few have attained a higher degree of success than he of whom this chronicle speaks. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made an exceptional success in life and has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he resides has been benefited by his presence and his counsel.

Jacob J. Ibel, of Cedar township, this county, was born August 13, 1872, in New York state, and was the son of Henry and Anna Margaret (Schueler) Ibel, both of whom were natives of Germany. His parents were reared in Germany, but came to this country before they were married, and were later married in New York, near Ilion. Henry Ibel was a carpenter in his native land, but when he came to this country in 1873 he followed the vocation of a farmer. Henry Ibel and his family arrived in Iowa on December 24, 1873, and first located temporarily at Cedar Rapids. Later they bought a farm in Benton county, but shortly afterwards sold it and moved to Linn county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ibel have retired from their farm and now live in Cedar Rapids. They are the parents of five children: Mrs. Anna Phelps, who lives near Covington, Iowa; Mrs. Katie Schrimper, of Cedar Rapids; Mary, who is at home; Mrs. Louisa Ring, who resides on the old homestead farm in Linn county, and Jacob J., whose history is here portrayed.

Jacob J. Ibel was educated in the public schools of Benton county, Iowa, in the district known as the Hamilton district. He was married when he

reached the age of twenty-three and then farmed for three years in Linn county, this state. From there he moved to Poweshiek county, this state, where he followed farming pursuits near Grinnell. He bought his first farm in Calhoun county in 1900, buying one hundred and sixty acres for thirty-seven and one-half dollars an acre. In 1901 he sold this farm for fifty dollars an acre, clearing twelve and a half dollars on each acre in less than one year's time. He then purchased ninety-eight acres in Calhoun county, for fifty-six dollars an acre, and after farming it for one year, moved to Linn county, Iowa, but returned in 1908 and sold his Calhoun county farm for eighty-two and one-half dollars an acre. His next move was to the state of Washington, where he had a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre wheat ranch, but he got enough of Washington in one year, and in 1910 he returned to this county and bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in June, 1910, for ninety-six dollars an acre, and has refused one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for the land since that time. Mr. Ibel has made a success of his farming operations, and in 1913 had forty acres of corn which had a good average of forty bushels to the acre. He usually has for sale twenty head of hogs each year and ten head of cattle, and finds this no inconsiderable part of his annual income.

Mr. Ibel was married February 19, 1896, to Johanna M. Kimm, a native of Benton county, this state, and the daughter of Rev. Jacob Kimm, a minister of the New Jerusalem church. Rev. Jacob Kimm was a soldier in the Civil War, enlisting in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and lost his left leg while in the service in the battle of the Wilderness. At the close of the war, Mr. Kimm came to Benton county, Iowa, and afterwards owned a farm in Iowa county. He is now living in the state of Washington, his wife, Magdalena Eubel, a native of Germany, having died April 9, 1897. Rev. Jacob Kimm and wife were the parents of ten children: Leonard, Mrs. Anna Harthill, both of Washington; Mrs. Johanna Ibel; Milo, also of Washington; Lewis, deceased; Mrs. Rosa Barr, who lives at Storm Lake, Iowa; Winfield, Milford and Jesse, all of Washington, and Ida, deceased. Mrs. Ibel's father was married October, 1898, to Sarah Davis, and to this second union were born three children, two of whom are living, Kenneth, Kermit, and Elmer, deceased. An uncle of Mrs. Ibel's, J. H. Kimm, now living in South Dakota, reared seventeen children, nine of whom formed the famous "Kimm Baseball Nine." Mr. and Mrs. Ibel are the parents of two children, Benton J., born June 1, 1898, and Marion C., born January 21, 1900.

Politically, Mr. Ibel reserves the right to cast his vote for those men

whom he considers the best qualified to hold the offices of his locality. He votes for the best men irrespective of party affiliations, feeling that in doing this he is fulfilling the highest ideal citizenship, and he is right, for it is the independent voter who is always the most intelligent voter of the community.

Mr. Ibel was reared in the Lutheran church and now subscribes to the belief of the New Jerusalem denomination. His support may be depended upon for the furthering of any cause calculated to advance the county's interests for the political, industrial, educational, religious or moral welfare, and among his many commendable traits Mr. Ibel makes and retains friends easily, as does his estimable wife.

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#### FRED HILLMANN.

Among the enterprising young men of Lytton, Sac county, Iowa, the Hillmann brothers occupy a very prominent and conspicuous place. They have built up an industry which touches the life of every farmer in the township, and the success which has attended their efforts has come about because they have given the best of service to their patrons. In the enterprising little town of Lytton, which, by the way, is the smallest town in the state to own its own electric light plant, they have built up a creamery which is the pride of the community and these two establishments are no small factors in the material advancement of the community in which they are located.

Fred and George Hillmann, the sons of Otto Hillmann, were born in 1887 and 1884, respectively. Otto Hillman was a native of Germany and came to America when a young man and settled near Waverly, in Bremer county, Iowa. In 1887 he came to Sac City and opened a mercantile establishment with his brother, in which business he remained for three years. He then went to Manson, Iowa, in 1890, and started a creamery and shortly afterwards had two branch stations in the county known as skimming stations. In 1894 he settled on a farm south of Lytton and operated a creamery and for the next ten years did a very profitable business. In 1907 he built the Hillmann creamery in Lytton, which he managed until his death, on December 2, 1907, since which time his sons, Fred and George, have been successfully managing the creamery. Otto Hillmann married Ida Vogt, a native of Bremer county, Iowa, and to this union were born six children: Alena, deceased; Esther; Priscilla; Ferdinand, living at Omaha; George and Fred, who are at home with their mother.

The Hillmann creamery is the most important establishment in Lytton, and one of the best equipped creameries in the state. The building is twenty-two by eighty feet in size and is equipped with all the latest improved machinery for the making of butter. It has a daily capacity of four thousand pounds and is now manufacturing from one thousand to one thousand five hundred pounds of excellent creamery butter each day, and about one hundred tubs of butter weekly. The Hillmann brothers take a great deal of pride in their plant and keep it absolutely clean and sanitary at all times, thereby giving their products a name which guarantees it a ready sale in the best markets.

The Hillmann brothers are members of the German Lutheran church, as are all the members of the family. George is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, while Fred holds his membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. These young men are fine examples of American citizens, and have a bright business career before them. They have established a business which is sure to grow and become an increasing factor in the welfare of the community. They are agreeable men to meet and have a host of warm and loyal friends throughout the township in which they live.

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#### ROBERT IRVIN WILSON.

There is no calling, however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with a well-directed purpose, will not be productive of some measure of success, and in the pursuit of agriculture the qualities mentioned are quite essential. Among the well-known and highly respected farmers of Sac county, Iowa, who have attained to a definite degree of success in their line and who at the same time have greatly benefited the community in which they live is the gentleman to a review of whose life and career we now direct the reader's attention.

Robert Irvin Wilson, one of the prosperous farmers of Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, was born September 27, 1877, in Clinton county, Iowa, the son of John and Caroline (Cook) Wilson, natives of Canada and New York, respectively. Her parents left their native homes and migrated to Clinton county, Iowa, in the latter fifties, and there John Wilson met and married Caroline Cook. John Wilson was born in 1850 and died in June, 1888. They lived the rest of their lives in Clinton county, this state, and to them were born a family of four children: Mabel, who died at the age of



three years; Nathan J., of Coon Valley township; Robert I. and J. Lowell, of Sac township, the three brothers all now living in Sac county.

The three brothers came to Sac county, Iowa, in March, 1899, and Robert at once bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Cedar township for thirty-six dollars an acre, the land having few, if any, improvements upon it at that time. He has placed many improvements, consisting of tiling, fencing, barns and a new home, on his farm, and expended about ten thousand dollars in improvements altogether. In 1909 he purchased forty acres adjoining his farm, for which he had to pay eighty dollars an acre, and although it was but a few years ago, the same land is now worth about two hundred dollars an acre. In 1911 Mr. Wilson erected a fine, modern residence, which has all the latest conveniences. In addition to his regular farming pursuits, Mr. Wilson raises from twelve to fifteen head of cattle for the market each year and finds this a profitable part of his vocation.

Mr. Wilson was married on Christmas eve, in 1896, in Clinton county, Iowa, to Florence Miner, a native of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, the daughter of Albert and Ella A. Miner, who had come to Iowa in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are the parents of one son, Ronald, who is now fourteen years of age, born September 3, 1899.

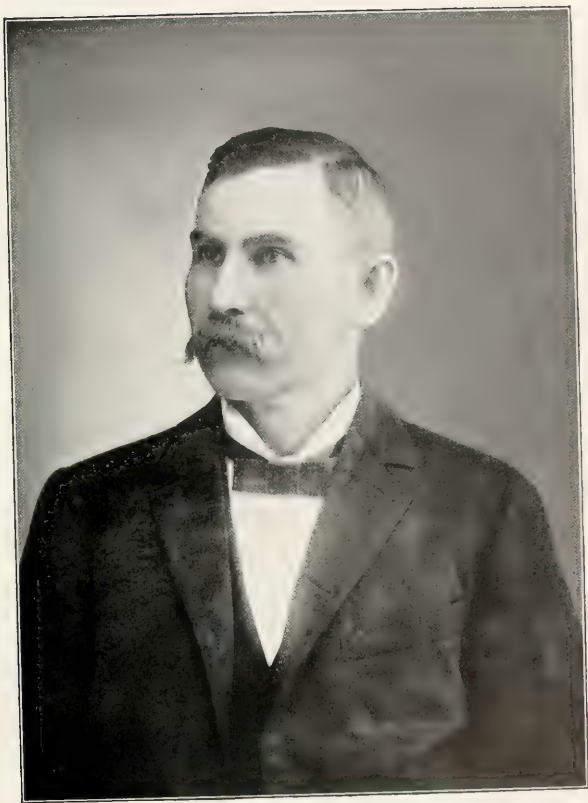
Politically, Mr. Wilson belongs to the Republican party, but the cares of his farm life have been such as to prevent his taking a very active part in the political game. Religiously, Mr. Wilson and his family are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which they are faithful attendants and to the support of which they are liberal contributors.

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### JOHN A. REYNOLDS.

One of the world's noble army of productive workers who left a definite impress upon this community by reason of his high standing as a successful business man and a loyal and progressive citizen was the late John A. Reynolds, and it is most consonant that in this volume be entered and perpetuated a brief tribute to his memory and a record concerning the more salient points in his career. He was a man of many admirable traits and he had a host of friends among those with whom he labored.

John A. Reynolds was born July 4, 1854, at Hudson, Ohio, and was a son of William and Rebecca (Tawn) Reynolds. He removed to Grinnell, Iowa, in 1863, and was first married February 23, 1878, to Lottie Elliott,



JOHN A. REYNOLDS



who died May 14, 1891, leaving seven children, named as follows: Ida, wife of S. L. Howell, Poweshiek county, Iowa; Nellie lives in Colorado; Walter, a merchant at Odebolt, Iowa; Charles and Ben have a book store at Ames, Iowa; Flora is a stenographer in Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Lottie Smith lives near Grinnell, Iowa. In the fall of 1878 John A. Reynolds came to Odebolt, Iowa, and started the first blacksmith and wagon shop in the town, with George Parker as a partner. Mr. Parker retired in 1886 and Charles W. Kistler became his partner.

On December 24, 1892, Mr. Reynolds was married to Teresa Shea, who was born in Lake county, Illinois, April 7, 1870, daughter of Cornelius and Mary (Delaney) Shea, the former a native of Ireland and the latter born in the state of Illinois. Cornelius Shea was born in the year 1843 and came to America with his parents in 1846. He removed to Sac county, Iowa, in 1877, and settled in Wheeler township, where the family resided on a farm in West Wheeler. Mr. Shea built and operated a hotel in Odebolt after leaving the farm. In 1881 the Sheas removed to Odebolt, and in 1890 removed to Nebraska, where they lived until 1902, when they removed to Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Mary Shea died in Odebolt in 1891. To the union of Cornelius and Mary Shea the following children were born: Timothy, who lives in Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Katie Burnquist, who resides in Hays township, Ida county, Iowa; Teresa, widow of John A. Reynolds, the immediate subject of this memoir; Mary, wife of John Myers, of Carroll, Iowa; Sarah died in 1900; Cornelius, who lives in Spokane, Washington; Eugene, who is a priest in the state of Michigan; William died in 1891; Helen and George live in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Reynolds was reared in the Catholic faith. By her marriage with Mr. Reynolds five children were born. These are: Mary, born June 7, 1894; Josephine, born March 31, 1897; Eugene, born March 16, 1899; Gertrude, born October 23, 1903; Alice, born July 7, 1909.

John A. Reynolds served as mayor of Odebolt for several terms, and served in the city council for a period of eighteen years. He was a man who took much interest in his home community, and he had the confidence of all throughout his entire residence in this locality. In his business transactions he was uniformly successful and was the owner of a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Wheeler township. He was a Master Mason and a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Reynolds was called by death on July 5, 1910. He was a plain, sincere, honest man, in whose death all could feel a common sorrow. Meas-

ured by its beneficence, its rectitude, its fidelity to the plain and simple virtues, his life counted for much, and in his passing there were many who truly felt they had lost a friend.

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### FRED BREHM.

It is not an easy task to describe adequately a man who has led an eminently active and busy life and who has attained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. But biography finds its most perfect justification, nevertheless, in the tracing and recording of such a life history. It is, then, with a full appreciation of all that is demanded and of the painstaking scrutiny that must be accorded each statement, and yet with a feeling of satisfaction, that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon the details of such a record as has been that of the honored subject of this sketch, whose eminently successful career is now under review.

Fred Brehm, a prosperous retired implement dealer of Lytton, Iowa, was born in Germany in 1848, the son of Fred and Mary (Ritter) Brehm. In 1874 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brehm, Sr., came to the United States and located first in Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, where they engaged in farming for about three years. They then came to Sac county, Iowa, where they stayed a short time, after which they located in Calhoun county, this state, but in 1887 moved back to Sac county, living on a farm near Wall Lake for about five years.

When Fred Brehm came from Wisconsin to Iowa he was accompanied by his step-father, who engaged in the implement business at Lytton, but later sold out to his sons, in the spring of 1913. In addition to his implement business he was also largely interested in land in this county, and is now the owner of one hundred and eighty-five acres near Lytton, although he previously had two hundred and ten acres near Sac City, which he sold in 1910. The success which has attended Mr. Brehm in his business is decidedly shown when it is stated that when he came from Wisconsin he had only fifteen dollars, but by true German thrift and frugality he used this slender amount as a working basis, and on it built his present comfortable fortune.

Mr. Brehm was married in 1884 to Mary Karges, who was born in Wisconsin, of German parentage. To this marriage there have been born eleven children: Fred, who is in the implement business in Lytton; Walter,

a farmer; Carl, a farmer; Clarence, a farmer; Hulda, deceased; Emma, the wife of Augustus Buth, of Lytton; Mary, the wife of Chris Arndt, an implement dealer; Mrs. Matilda Thielhorn, of this county; Mrs. Elizabeth Thielhorn, of this county, and Zelma and Clara, who are still at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Brehm is a staunch Democrat, but has never been solicitous as to political honors. He and all of the members of his family are loyal attendants of the German Lutheran church and give freely of their means to its support. Mr. Brehm is a man who has won success because he has applied those principles of honesty and integrity in all lines of his work. He has lived a very useful and busy life, having divided his interest between his implement store, farming and the live-stock business. For years he has been an extensive dealer in live stock, buying and shipping hogs and cattle by the car load. He is genial in his manner and is highly respected by every one with whom he comes in contact. He is interested in the welfare of his community and is always ready to lend his hearty support to all commendable measures which are directed toward the public good.

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### GEORGE B. WILLHOITE.

Specific mention is made in the following paragraphs of one of the worthy citizens of Sac county, Iowa, one who has figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its progress, contributing in a definite measure in his particular sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Earnest purpose and tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and every-day common sense in the banking business, have been among his most prominent characteristics, and he has merited the respect and esteem which are accorded him by all who know him.

George B. Willhoite, the present cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank, of Lytton, Iowa, was born October 24, 1885, in Cisco, Piatt county, Illinois, son of R. S. and Elizabeth (Taylor) Willhoite, natives of Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively. The parents of the Willhoite and Taylor families settled in Illinois in about 1850, and R. S. Willhoite and Elizabeth Taylor were married in that state. R. S. Willhoite was the son of Thomas Willhoite and came to Iowa in 1893, settling in October of that year in Wall Lake.

where the father managed a harness manufacturing establishment, and they remained here until 1905, when they moved to Schaller, this county. In 1907 they went to Owanka, South Dakota, where they are now living with a daughter. Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Willhoite were the parents of five children: A. P. and Gertrude live in Owanka, South Dakota; P. M. is a farmer of Wall Lake, Iowa; G. S. is a civil engineer at Aztec, New Mexico, and George B., whose history is here presented.

George B. Willhoite was educated in Wall Lake, where he completed the common and high school courses in that town, after which he clerked in stores in the town and did office work. His first banking experience was in the German Bank of Wall Lake, and from there he came to Lytton, in this county, as assistant cashier of the Farmers Savings Bank in 1906. He applied himself to his new duties and showed such a commendable spirit in grasping the details of his new position that he was promoted by the stockholders of the bank to the responsible position of cashier in the spring of 1913. In this position he is giving satisfactory service to the bank and he is becoming increasingly useful to the success of the financial institution.

The Lytton Savings Bank was organized in 1902 by F. Schug and H. H. Fitch, with Mr. Fitch as president and Mr. Schug as cashier. The bank was started with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars, and continued to operate until June 1, 1906, when it was taken over by the Farmers Savings Bank, of Lytton, which had been organized only a few months previously, with a capital stock of fifteen thousand dollars. Upon the organization of that bank, C. F. Brobiel became president and F. A. Ayers, cashier. When the Lytton Savings Bank was liquidated and taken over by the Farmers Savings Bank Frank Corey was elected president; John L. Hamilton, vice-president; F. A. Ayers, cashier; G. B. Willhoite, assistant cashier. The present officers are Frank Corey, president; F. A. Ayers, vice-president; G. B. Willhoite, cashier; C. H. Castor, assistant cashier. The bank now has a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars and in 1913 had a surplus and undivided profits of five thousand dollars, with deposits of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The capital stock had been increased from fifteen thousand dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars upon its incorporation in 1910. The bank is now located in its own brick building, where it has commodious and convenient quarters.

Mr. Willhoite was married in December, 1907, to Mabel L. Trumbauer, of Lytton, the daughter of Peter B. and Lovina J. Trumbauer. The Trumbauer family were old settlers of Sac county, and among the most prominent citizens of the county. They came to Sac county in 1883, and owned the



land on which the town of Lytton was built. They sold the townsite to the Milwaukee Land Company and platted the Trumbauer Addition. Mr. Trumbauer died in 1909, and his widow is now residing with her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Willhoite have one son, Robert B., who is now four years of age.

In politics, Mr. Willhoite votes the Republican ticket and works in harmony with the principles of that party. Mrs. Willhoite is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and also the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Willhoite keeps well informed on all the current topics of the day, and is a well-mannered, genteel, highly intelligent gentleman, who has gained the respect of all with whom he has been associated during his comparatively short residence in this county.

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### CHARLES NUEHRING.

A business man of Lytton who has in the past two years built up a lucrative trade in the harness business is Charles Nuehring, one of the many sons of Germany who have made this county their home. The remarkable part of Mr. Nuehring's career is the fact that he left the farm in middle life and came to Lytton without previous experience of any kind in the harness-making business and made a success of his new profession. He had never had any experience which might apply to his new profession except what he had been taught by his father to operate a tailor's sewing machine.

Charles Nuehring, a successful harness-maker and merchant of Lytton, Iowa, was born in Clayton county, Iowa, in 1868, the son of Frederick and Louisa (Bohlmann) Nuehring, both of whom were natives of Germany. Frederick Nuehring and wife were born, reared and married in Germany, coming to this country in 1865, and in the same year located on a farm in Clayton county, Iowa. In 1870 they located in Butler county, this state, where they remained for twelve years. In 1882 they moved to Sac county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Cedar township, sections 25 and 26. Here Frederick Nuehring died in 1903, at the age of seventy-seven, and his wife five years later, at the age of seventy-two. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Nuehring were the parents of eleven children: Mrs. Wilhelmina Ehlers, of Cedar township, this county; Henry and Carolina, of Minnesota; Fred, of Wisconsin; Mollie, of Buena Vista county, Iowa; William, of Calhoun county, this state; Mrs. Annie Albinger, of Cedar township, this county; Charles, whose history is here presented; Mrs. Christina Helm-

brecht, of Calhoun county, this state, and Lewis and Augustus, of Cedar township, Sac county.

Charles Nuehring began to work for himself at the age of twenty-one years, and until 1912 farmed in this county, and still owns a fine farm of eighty acres in Cedar township, which he rents at the present time. On May 9, 1912, Mr. Nuehring purchased an established harness business in Lytton, and has made a pronounced success of his new occupation in the short time which he has had control of it. It is not often that a man of his age can enter a new line of business and manage it successfully, but that Mr. Nuehring has done this is evidenced by the business which he is now doing day by day.

Mr. Nuehring is a Republican in politics, although he has never taken an active interest in the deliberations of his party. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and subscribes liberally to its support.

Mr. Nuehring was married in 1903 to Freda Fletcher, of Buena Vista county, this state, and to this marriage have been born two children, Walter and Rose. Mr. Nuehring is well known throughout the township and has many excellent qualities of head and heart, which have won for him many friends, and consequently he is one of the representative men of his town and community and well merits a place in this biographical volume.

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### WILLIAM W. HENNING.

Among the prosperous farmers of Jackson township, Sac county, Iowa, is William W. Henning, who embodies all of those characteristics which are the marks of the progressive farmer of the twentieth century. Although he has been in this county only a comparatively short time, yet he has impressed his individuality upon the community where he settled, by virtue of the fact that he is a man of strong convictions and upright character. Coming here from the state of Illinois, he made the change because he felt that this was one of the best agricultural sections of the country, and that this county offered the farmer as good or better opportunity for a successful career than could be found any place in the United States.

William W. Henning, of Jackson township, was born August 7, 1860, at Plano, Illinois, and is the son of William and Marinda (Brown) Henning, natives of New York. William Henning, Sr., is the son of Cornelius Henning, who left his native state of New York and came by the lakes through Chicago. Cornelius and his family then traveled by wagon to Plano, two

miles distant from Chicago. They settled on a farm in the immediate vicinity of that city. William Henning, Sr., was a prosperous farmer and stock raiser in Illinois and was one of the most substantial citizens in the locality where he lived. Half of the present city of Plano was built on the Henning farm. William Henning, Sr., died in 1886, at the age of seventy-two and his wife died ten years later, at the age of sixty-nine. Nine children, including three sets of twins, were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Henning, Sr.: Loren, of Plano, Illinois; Gilbert, deceased; Mrs. Clara Cox, of Aurora, Nebraska; Herschell, of Marengo, Illinois; Hattie, deceased; William W., whose history is here recorded; Mrs. Eva Laurie, of Aurora, Nebraska; Clarence, deceased; Wallace, deceased, who was a twin of the subject.

William W. Henning was educated in the Plano public schools and later attended Aurora Seminary, a Methodist institution. He assisted his father on the home farm until he was twenty-three years of age and then managed the family farm of three hundred and twenty acres near Steward, Illinois, where he resided twelve years. In 1895 he sold his farm and moved to Plano, Illinois, where he served as city marshal for three years. In 1901 he came to Sac county, having purchased, in 1900, his present farm of one hundred and ninety acres for fifty-five dollars an acre. He has spent nearly six thousand dollars in improving the farm since he purchased it, putting one thousand dollars on the house, three thousand dollars in tiling and one thousand dollars for stock and machinery. He now has the farm in excellent condition and values it at two hundred dollars an acre. In 1913 he had seventy-five acres of corn, which averaged fifty bushels to the acre. That year he also raised twenty-five head of cattle, forty head of hogs and ten head of horses.

Mr. Henning was married February 14, 1884, to Adah Wilcox, of Plano, Illinois. She died in January, 1909, leaving three children, Bertha, Davis and Dorothy. Bertha and Dorothy are with their father, while Davis is managing the farm for his father. Davis married Irene Masteller, of Sac county, and has one son, Verlin. On April 24, 1913, Mr. Henning was married to Agnes Bock, a former teacher of Sac county, the daughter of J. A. and Hetty A. Bock, both natives of Pennsylvania. The Bock family came from Pennsylvania to Carroll county, Iowa, in 1877, and moved to Sac county in 1899, where they have since resided.

Mr. Henning is a progressive Republican and, while interesting himself in the various political questions of the day, he has never been an aspirant for any public office. His family are members of the Presbyterian church, while, fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Modern Woodmen of America, having been a member of the latter order

since he was twenty-five years of age. Mr. Henning has been a man of action and has lived a life which has been in accord with the Golden Rule. He has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken, and his business methods have been in strict conformity with the standard ethics of commercial life. He has never shrunk from his duties as a citizen, his obligations to his church, his neighbors or his friends.

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### WILLIAM W. RHOADS.

It was once remarked by a celebrated moralist and biographer that "there has scarcely passed a life of which a judicious and faithful narrative would not have been useful." Believing in the truth of this opinion, expressed by one of the greatest and best of men, the writer of this review takes pleasure in presenting a few facts in the career of a gentleman who, by industry, perseverance, temperance and integrity has worked himself from an humble station to a successful place in life and won an honorable position among the well-known and highly esteemed men of the locality in which he resides.

W. W. Rhoads, a prosperous farmer of Wall Lake township, was born May 25, 1865, in Zena, now known as Woodward, Dallas county, Iowa. His parents were Louis and Jane (McCracken) Rhoads, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. Louis Rhoads was born in Ohio in 1845 and died in September, 1909, in Dallas county. He came with his parents to Dallas county, Iowa, in 1852. The McCrackens were also early settlers in Dallas county.

W. W. Rhoads received his education in Dallas and Calhoun counties, and lived with his parents until he was married, at the age of twenty-one. He continued to reside in Dallas county until 1893, and then moved to Calhoun county, where he farmed for eight years. In 1901 he came to Sac county and bought his present farm of one hundred and thirty-two acres in Wall Lake township. His farm is well improved, and during the twelve years in which he has lived on it he has brought it to a state of cultivation where he receives a handsome return on his yearly crops. He is fortunate in having fifteen acres of timber land upon his farm, and has an attractive residence, substantial and well-arranged barns and other outbuildings. He is a progressive farmer in every sense of the word and in the matter of rotation of



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM W. RHOADS



crops and the other incidental features of successful agriculture, he shows an attitude which stamps him as a man of good practical judgment.

Mr. Rhoads was married on Christmas day, 1886, to Dora Beam, of Jasper county, Iowa, daughter of Enoch and Helen Beam. To this union have been born five children: Mrs. Effie Peyton, of Sac City; Mrs. Mattie Alice Long, of Cedar township, this county; Donald, who is now in the United States navy, on battleship "Montgomery;" Neil and Wesley, who are still at home with their parents.

Mr. Rhoads has been voting the Republican ticket since he cast his first ballot, and while taking an active interest in the welfare of his party, he has never been an aspirant for any public office. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and to it they contribute liberally of their means. Fraternally, he is a member of the Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America. During the more than a half score of years which he has lived in this county, Mr. Rhoads has lived a life which has brought him the friendship and esteem of all who know him. While successful in his own private affairs, he has also interested himself in the welfare of others and gives his unreserved support to every enterprise which is for the advancement of the welfare of his fellow citizens.

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#### DAVID CORSAUT.

One of the most prosperous farmers and stock men of Sac county is David Corsaut, of Jackson township. He has built up a reputation as one of the leading horse men in the state of Iowa. He has been interested in the breeding of Percheron thoroughbred horses for the past seven years, buying his first brood mare in 1907 at Sioux City, for which he paid six hundred and sixty dollars. The following winter he bought the champion brood mare of Iowa, "Victorine." He now has three of the finest Percheron stallions in Iowa, one of which he imported in the spring of 1913 at the cost of eighteen hundred dollars. This stallion, "Cato," is three years old and weighs one thousand, nine hundred and sixty pounds. He now has over twelve head of thoroughbred Percheron horses on his farm and has had the gratification of taking sweepstakes at the state fair in Des Moines on more than one occasion.

David Corsaut was born February 10, 1840, in London, Canada, and



is the son of James and Millicent (Farrar) Corsaut. His father was born in New York state, his mother in Connecticut. His mother came from the famous Farrar family of preachers, who trace their ancestry back to John Knox, a reformer of the Middle ages. Mr. Corsaut also traces his ancestry back to the Corsauts of colonial times. His grandparents came from Holland and first settled in New York. James and Millicent F. Corsaut were the parents of eleven children, seven sons and four daughters. Five of these children are still living, namely: Ebenezer, of London, Ontario; James, of Anderson, Indiana; William, of Dakota; Charles, of New York, and David, whose history is portrayed in this connection. Both of the parents of David Corsaut died in Canada, his mother living to the advanced age of ninety-one.

David Corsaut received all of his education in the schools of Canada and lived at home until he was twenty-three years of age. In 1863 he left Canada and came to Michigan, where he hired out as a farm hand for two years, then settled in St. Clair county, Michigan, where he married and bought a farm, on which he lived until 1886. He then moved to Butler county, Iowa, and the year following went to Hamilton county, in the same state, where he lived on a rented farm for six years. He saved his money with the intention of investing in land at the first opportunity and in 1892 he came to Sac county and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land for twenty-three dollars an acre. Since purchasing this land he has erected all the buildings, thoroughly tiled and fenced the farm. In 1899 he bought three hundred and twenty acres in Cedar township at forty-five dollars an acre and now owns six hundred and forty acres in Sac county, which is worth two hundred dollars an acre.

Mr. Corsaut was married April 15, 1867, to Sarah Hunt, the daughter of John and Mary (Wilcox) Hunt, and was born in Exeter, England. Her parents came to America in 1870 and settled in London, Ontario, where they lived and died. To John and Mary W. Hunt were born twelve children, nine of whom are now living: Grace, Thomas, William, Elizabeth, Harry, Sarah, Fanny, Hunt, Mary Jane, and Ann. Robert and Samuel, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Corsaut have reared six children, one dying in infancy: William and Charles are at home with their parents; James is a farmer of Cedar township, married and has four children, Frances, Dwight, Zada and Loren; Mrs. Emma Hendrickson, of Sac City, who has two children, Fern and David; Mrs. Zada Keir, of Spencer, Iowa, who has children, Robert and Ferris; Hannah died at the age of twenty-two months in Michigan.

Politically, Mr. Corsaut is a Republican and, while taking an intelligent interest in the political issues of the day, he has never been an aspirant for

any public office. He and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church, and ally themselves with various interests of that denomination. Mr. Corsaut has all of those qualities which go to make up ideal citizenship. Among those with whom he associates he is held in high regard. His strong character, farseeing judgment and high purposes have won for him a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who admire him for the life of strict integrity and usefulness which he has led since coming to this county.

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### FRANK E. PRATT.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Sac county within the pages of this book, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests are identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its moral and legitimate growth. Among this number is he whose name appears at the head of this article, who has long been recognized as one of the leading and substantial citizens of his locality.

Frank E. Pratt, proprietor of a prosperous furniture and drug business in Lytton, Iowa, was born August 6, 1874, in Benton county, this state, about four miles from Shellsburg, the son of Morgan S. and Mary Pratt, natives of Vermont and Indiana, respectively. Morgan S. Pratt came to Iowa when about fourteen years of age with his parents, reaching this state in 1856. In 1905 Morgan S. Pratt and wife moved to Cedar Rapids, this state, where they are now living.

F. E. Pratt received his education in the common schools and in the Iowa State University, from which institution he graduated in the department of pharmacy in May, 1902. He started in the drug business at Cedar Rapids, and came to Lytton in 1908, where he purchased a drug store which was already established in that town, and has continued to reside here since that time. In addition to his drug business he also handles furniture and is engaged in the undertaking business. He has two floors completely stocked with a good assortment of furniture and all of the ordinary articles which are found in all first-class drug stores. He has an excellent business and is rapidly coming to the front as one of the substantial business men of the town and vicinity.

Mr. Pratt was married April 5, 1905, to Iva Simpson, of Cedar Rapids.

Politically, Mr. Pratt is a Republican, while in his church relations he is allied with the Presbyterians. Fraternally, he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Huron, South Dakota, where he worked as a pharmacist for a year and a half after his graduation from college. Mr. Pratt is a pleasant and genial man to meet and by his tact and courtesy is rapidly enlarging his patronage. He is a thorough pharmacist in every sense of the word and carries a line of drugs which enables him to compound prescriptions without any difficulty. He and his wife are the centers of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and their home is a favorite gathering place of these friends.

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### CLARK COX.

The Union soldier during the great war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and wasting hardships, through the horrors of prison pens and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, for it was theirs to reach out the mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slave, preserve the country from dissolution, and to keep furled to the breeze the only flag that ever made tyrants tremble and whose majestic stripes and scintillating stars are still waving universal liberty to all the earth. For all the unmeasured deeds the living present will never repay them. Pension and political power may be thrown at their feet; art and sculpture may preserve upon canvas and in granite and bronze their unselfish deeds; history may commit to books and cold type may give to the future the tale of their sufferings and triumphs, but to the children of the generations yet unborn will it remain to accord the full measure of appreciation and undying remembrance of the immortal character carved out by the American soldiers in the dark days of the early sixties, numbered among whom is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch.

Clark Cox, a gallant veteran of the Civil War, and now a retired farmer living in Sac City, Iowa, was born July 25, 1839, in Jackson county, Indiana. He is the son of Abner and Sarah (Shoemaker) Cox, natives of Kentucky and Indiana, respectively. In 1843 Abner Cox and family came to Iowa and spent the first winter in Henry county, and in the spring of 1844 moved to Mahaska county, this state, where they lived until 1851, when they moved to Polk county, seven miles north of Des Moines, and here they bought a

farm, but later sold it and moved to a place northwest of Polk City, where Abner Cox and his wife spent the remainder of their days. They were the parents of ten children, four of whom are now living: Clark, with whom this narrative deals; James, of Polk county; Mrs. Sarah Elerfits, who lives near Granger, Iowa, and Anna Jane, whose home is in Algona, Iowa.

Clark Cox received his elementary education in the various counties in which his parents lived while he was of school age, and at the opening of the Civil War he was seized with the same fervor which stirred the hearts of millions of other men in the North and enlisted in the Union army and fought through the long, bloody struggle from start to finish. He enlisted August 1, 1861, in Company A, Tenth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was in actual service for four years and fifteen days. Among the many battles and skirmishes in which he took part, he was in the battles of Vicksburg, Corinth, Belmont, Iuka, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Resaca, Dallas, Atlanta and the various battles and skirmishes which General Sherman had to meet on his march to the sea and his subsequent march through the Carolinas to Goldsboro in North Carolina. Mr. Cox was in the forefront with his company during his whole career, was never wounded, never seriously sick, never captured and has the distinguished honor of participating in the Grand Review at Washington in the summer of 1865.

Immediately after the close of the war Mr. Cox returned to Iowa and began farming in Polk county. A year later he married and he and his wife continued to reside in Polk county until 1885, when they moved to Sac county, where he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Coon Valley township, on which they lived until 1903, at which time they bought a farm adjoining Sac City, on which they lived until 1906, when they moved to Sac City, where they are now living.

Mr. Cox was married October 11, 1866, to Mary C. Howard, of Polk county, Iowa, and to this union have been born three children: Elmer, a farmer of this county; Samuel, a farmer of Calhoun county, this state, and Mrs. Sarah Naomi Ringgenberg, whose husband is a farmer of Calhoun county.

Politically, Mr. Cox is an independent voter and he prefers to cast his ballot for men rather than for measures. He represents the large class of citizens who exercise the franchise in an intelligent manner and are not bound by partisan politics. If all citizens would use the same good judgment many of the evils of this country would disappear. Fraternally, Mr. Cox is a loyal member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Sac City,

and is proud of the fact that this post is named after the famous commander who marched to the sea. Although a quiet and unassuming man, Mr. Cox has contributed much to the material advancement of the community by his admirable qualities of head and heart, and the straight-forward, upright course of his life has tended greatly to uplift the moral standing of the circles in which he moves. He is a man of liberal views, believes in progress and improvement, therefore he does what he can to further these ends, taking a live interest in whatever makes for the material advancement of the county and the social, intellectual and moral good of its people.

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#### ALEXANDER WAGER.

Dependent very largely upon his own resources from his early youth, Alexander Wager, of Jackson township, this county, has attained no insignificant success, and though he may have, like most men of affairs, encountered obstacles and met with reverses, yet he has pressed steadily forward. His tenacity and fortitude are due, no doubt, in a large measure to the worthy traits inherited from his ancestors, whose high ideals and correct principles he has ever sought to perpetuate in all the relations of life.

Alexander Wager was born in 1850 in Genoa, DeKalb county, Illinois, the son of Henry and Mehitabel (Brown) Wager, natives respectively of New York and Ohio. Alexander lost his mother when he was two years of age, and his father later married a Miss Deborah. By his first marriage, Henry Wager had four children: Lucinda, deceased; William Henry, who lives in Michigan; Mrs. Julia Donaldson, of Aurora, Illinois, and Alexander.

Alexander Wager grew to manhood in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he received a good common-school education, and early in life began to assist his father with the duties on the home farm. In 1882, on the first day of the year, Mr. Wager left DeKalb county, Illinois, and came to Jackson township, Sac county, Iowa, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres for six dollars and a half an acre. The land had no improvements on it whatever and everything which is on the land at this time has been placed there by Mr. Wager. In 1884 he purchased eighty acres adjoining his farm for ten dollars an acre and in 1897 he purchased another eighty for thirty dollars an acre, and is now the owner of four hundred acres of land which is worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. He does not attempt to farm all of his land, but rents some of it out to responsible tenants and farms the remainder himself.

Mr. Wager was married December 25, 1876, to Anna Lewis, daughter of John and Catherine Lewis, who were natives of New York state and early settlers in Dekalb county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Wager are the parents of three children: Fred Lewis and Ruth Esther, who are at home with their parents on the farm, and Mrs. Elsie May Gneiss, of Chicago, Illinois.

Politically, Mr. Wager is a Republican, while his religious affiliations are with the Methodist Episcopal church. His fraternal relations are with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Wager has reached his present position of influence solely through the sweat of his own brow and can now live his remaining days surrounded by the comforts of life. Eighty acres of his land is situated within the corporate limits of Sac City. He has always raised considerable live stock and now has thirty head of cattle on his farm. Because of his upright character, marked ability and genial disposition, Mr. Wager is numbered among the most popular residents of Jackson township. He is mindful of the duties he owes to his community and is always found upon the right side of all questions affecting the welfare of his fellow men.

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#### THOMAS G. KEIR.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the favorably known and representative citizens of Sac county. By his indomitable enterprise and progressive methods he has contributed in a material way to the advancement of his locality and during the course of an honorable career has been successful in his business enterprises, having been a man of energy, sound judgment and honesty of purpose and is thus well deserving of mention in this volume.

Thomas G. Keir, a traveling salesman for Wayt & Son, monument dealers of Sac City, Iowa, was born January 31, 1856, in the province of Quebec, Canada, on a farm. He is the son of John and Helen (McGregor) Keir. John Keir was born in Scotland in 1818, came to Livingston county, Illinois, in 1868 and there farmed until his death, in October, 1869. John Keir was a veterinary surgeon, having graduated from a veterinary college, and in addition to farming and following his profession as a veterinary he also operated a blacksmith shop. Helen McGregor was born in Scotland, March 26, 1826, and came to Canada with her parents when she was four

years-old. John Keir and Helen McGregor were married April 5, 1844. They reared a family of twelve children, seven of whom are living: John Keir, who died at Wellington, Kansas, December 10, 1912; Duncan B., of Douglas township; Thomas G., with whom this narrative deals; Robert, of Douglas township; William, of Oklahoma; Charles, of Colorado, and Mrs. Clark Deshler, of Wellington, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. John Keir also had one adopted daughter, Mrs. George Morton, who now lives near Dalton, Kansas.

Thomas G. Keir was reared and educated principally in Illinois. When a youth he learned the blacksmith trade with his father and for several years conducted a blacksmith and wagon shop. Later he also managed a meat market. In December, 1894, Mr. Kier came to Sac county, Iowa, and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Jackson township, where he lived until March 1, 1910. He then moved to Sac City, purchased a residence and entered the employ of Wayt & Son, monument dealers, as traveling salesman. For the past four years he has been connected with this firm and is proving an efficient salesman for his company, and has that necessary knowledge of the business, together with a tact and diplomacy which a skilled salesman needs in order to make him successful in this particular line of business.

Mr. Keir was married, May 16, 1878, to Ellen Elizabeth Sackett, the daughter of James and Ursula (Makepeace) Sackett. Her parents were natives of New York, but later came to Forrest, Illinois, where she was born. James Sackett died in 1880 and his wife died on January 19, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Sackett were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are living: Hutchinson, deceased; John, deceased; Lydia, deceased; Mrs. Delia Jones, of Oklahoma; Mrs. Emma Whitson, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Jay, of Joplin, Missouri; Mrs. Sabina Gordon, of Columbus, Kansas; Mrs. Mary Hopkins, of Illinois; Mrs. Hattie Cumpston, of Illinois; William, of Big Horn, Wyoming, and Mrs. Keir, the wife of Thomas G. Keir. Mr. and Mrs. Keir reared two children: Leroy, a rancher of Avalon, Alberta, who is married and has one child, Laverne, and Thomas Otto, a farmer of Avalon, Alberta, Canada.

Mr. Keir lends his stanch support to the Republican party and has filled various township offices. He has served as president of the township school board in Jackson township, this county, for two years. Religiously, he and his wife are loyal members of the Christian church. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, including the chapter and commandery at Sac City; the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the



Modern Woodmen of America. The life of Mr. Keir has been controlled by proper motives and he has been indefatigable in his honest efforts and business pursuits. As an employee of the company for which he is now working he has proved entirely satisfactory. As a member of the body politic he has given his support to such public measures as he felt would be of benefit to his community.

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### HENRY FRIESNER.

Shortly after the Civil War, Horace Greeley, who was then editor of the *New York Tribune*, made himself famous and gave a new impetus to Western migration by the use of two magic words, "Go west." These words were printed in large type, from day to day, in his famous newspaper and had a wonderful effect upon stimulating migration to the states west of the Mississippi river. There can be no question but that thousands of young men had this cry, "Go west," dinned into their ears until they really felt that fortunes were scattered around over the broad prairies waiting for some enterprising men to pick them up. And there were fortunes which, like the uncut diamond, had to be polished before their real worth was known. Thousands and tens of thousands of acres of land in Iowa and other Western states were sold as late as the seventies for five to ten dollars an acre and this same land, which has now been polished as it were, is now worth from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars an acre. It required only the touch of man to convert this apparently worthless land into what is now a garden spot of the world.

Henry Friesner, one of the earliest pioneers of Sac county, Iowa, was born January 15, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio, about three miles east of Lancaster. His parents, Jacob and Polly (Whiel) Friesner, were natives of Pennsylvania, and in 1840 the Friesner family moved to Coles county, Illinois, and there bought a farm. Here Jacob Friesner and his wife spent the remainder of their days. They reared a large family of children, only one of whom is living besides the one whose life history is here portrayed, Louis, a farmer of Calhoun county, in this state. Two of the brothers, Levi and Louis, served in the Union army during the Civil War.

In 1867 Henry Friesner obeyed that call of "Go west," and came to Grant City, Sac township, Sac county, Iowa, and bought forty acres for one dollar and a quarter an acre. Mr. Friesner built a small frame house, fourteen by sixteen feet, on his farm in October, 1869. The cost of the house

completely depleted his finances. He had no money with which to buy corn to put out his crop, so he went to a neighbor in Calhoun county and tried to borrow some corn, but was refused. He tried another farmer and met with better success, for the second farmer let him have corn and potatoes in order to enable him to make a start. At the Oxenford mill they told him he could have anything he wanted to carry with him. He has never forgotten the kindness which was shown him at this time of his life and has many times remembered this incident when he saw some neighbor who needed help. In this way he got a start and, while operating his small farm, he worked out for two or three years and gradually saved enough money in order to buy more land. When he came to Sac county he had one yoke of oxen and a cow and in the fall of the first year he bought another yoke on one year's time in Carroll county. The second yoke of oxen cost him one hundred and thirty-three dollars, and he gave a mortgage on the two yoke to secure the payment of the pair he purchased. After he broke up his first forty acres and got his crops started he commenced to buy land and soon had another forty acres under cultivation. He and his son broke prairie land for their neighbors in order to earn money to pay for cattle. He purchased his second forty acres in 1872 at four dollars an acre, but he only had ten dollars to pay down on it. In 1874 he bought eighty acres for five dollars an acre and two years later he bought forty acres for six dollars and six cents an acre. By 1881 the land had arisen in price and the eighty which he bought in that year cost him ten dollars an acre. He had now bought five separate tracts of land, totalling two hundred and eighty acres and had placed buildings on each of his farms. The people called him "land poor," but he felt confident that the land would increase in value and that he and his son would be able to make it net good returns. The subsequent success which attended him in his efforts amply justified his wisdom in purchasing the land when it was cheap. He now has one hundred and sixty acres of land and has given his two sons eighty acres apiece, a result which has afforded him a great deal of satisfaction in his declining years.

Mr. Friesner was married in 1857 to Martha Swisher, who died in 1897. To them were born four children, all of whom are living: William Lewis and Andrew, who are farmers in this county; Mrs. Eliza Ann DeCamp, of Minnesota; Mrs. May Pontious, who keeps house for her father and has five children, Nina, Hazel, Edith, Lillian and Gerald.

Mr. Friesner was voting the Democratic ticket several years before the Republican party was organized. When Abraham Lincoln came out in opposition to slavery, in 1860, he voted for him and has voted for every Republi-

can candidate for President from that time down to 1912. He has always taken an active interest in politics, but has never been an aspirant for any public office. Mr. Friesner is now eighty-four years of age, still hale and hearty and enjoying life. His life has indeed been a long and useful one and he can look back over it and feel that the world has been the better for his having lived in it. He has a host of friends who admire him for his clean character, for his wholesome life and for the good influence which he has brought about him through his long life in this county.

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### ADOLPH ANDERSON.

From the land of the Vikings have come some of the most substantial citizens of Sac county and the same indomitable spirit which characterized the Northmen of old are to be found in these sturdy sons of Sweden today. Adolph Anderson offers another striking example of the oft-repeated statement that "America is the land of opportunity," for he came to this country when a mere youth without money and without friends, and yet by the sweat of his brow he has risen to a position where he is classed among the most substantial farmers of Sac county.

Adolph Anderson, of Coon Valley township, was born August 27, 1857, in Sweden, the son of Andrew and Hannah Anderson, who spent all of their lives in the land of their birth.

When a lad of sixteen years, Adolph Anderson came to America. The subsequent story of his life illustrates what can be accomplished by the proper application of industry and honest methods of life. Upon coming to America in 1874, he came directly to Illinois, where he secured a position on a farm, at the rate of fifteen dollars a month. A year later this young man, now seventeen years of age, rented a piece of land and for the next seven years worked diligently to save enough money to buy a farm of his own. By the time he was twenty-four years of age he was in a position financially to invest in a farm of his own, and accordingly, he came to Cedar township, Sac county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres for five dollars and seventy-five cents an acre. The following year he married and at once he and his young bride settled on his farm in Sac county, and started to lay the foundation of their future prosperity. However, they met with many discouragements. A year later they returned to Illinois where they lived for the next four years. The year 1886 found them back again

in Sac county, where they purchased one hundred and seventeen acres in Coon Valley township for seventeen dollars and a half an acre. This farm they still own and, as they felt able, they added to their original investment till at one time they owned one thousand two hundred acres of land in the county. Mr. Anderson has not attempted to farm all of this land and has sold some of it from time to time, although he still owns six hundred and twenty acres in Coon Valley township. Failure is a word not found in the Anderson family dictionary and today Mr. Anderson is classed with the most substantial farmers of his township. He has improved his farm in such a way as to net him handsome returns, and he now has three complete sets of buildings on his land. Some years ago he retired from active work himself and turned over the management of his farm to his son. In 1908 he erected a fine modern home on the farm and removed to Sac City, where he and his wife are spending their days surrounded by all of the conveniences of the twentieth century. His farms are exceedingly productive and his yearly sale of live stock comprises forty head of horses, one hundred and fifty head of hogs and from seventy-five to one hundred head of cattle.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1881 to Mary S. Peterson, who also is a native of Sweden. She came to America in 1877 when twenty-eight years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born three children: Charles, who is married and has two children, Cecil and Ethel; Albert, who is married and has three children, Adolph, Behula and Bernice; Mrs. Anna DeBorgh, of Lytton, who has one daughter, Eilleen.

The Republican party has claimed the support of Mr. Anderson and he has seen no reason why he should change his party allegiance to any other political organization. Religiously, he and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church and give liberally of their means to its support. Mr. Anderson is regarded as a good business man of excellent judgment and foresight, and has been very successful in managing his large estate. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Bank of Sac City and now owns five shares in that financial institution. His six hundred acres are easily worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre, and it can be readily seen that he can now afford to live a life of ease for the remainder of his days. However, his whole career has not been devoted solely to the acquisition of wealth, but he has kept abreast of the times and taken his part in the public life of county fully attests. He is another of the many descendants of the sturdy his friendly manner, his business ability and his upright living and is therefore a representative man of Sac county.

## CHARLES HECHTNER.

It is evident from a study of the life of Charles Hechtner that when opportunity knocked at his door he opened it and invited opportunity to step in. Some wise man has said that opportunity knocks but once at every man's door and that the subsequent success of every man depends upon whether he answers the knock and takes advantage of the one chance which is offered him. Whether this be true or not, it is a fact that the subject of this brief review did not miss his chance, as his successful career in Sac county fully attests. He is another of the many descendants of Germanic ancestry who have gained success in Sac county and although a native of this state, yet he inherits those characteristics which dominates a true son of Germany.

Charles Hechtner was born April 10, 1864, in Muscatine county, Iowa. His parents, Frederick and Sophie Hechtner, were born, reared and married in Germany. They came to this country in 1855. Upon coming to America, they located first at Princeton, Illinois. In 1864 they came to Muscatine county, Iowa, where Charles was born. Frederick Hechtner died in 1891 and his wife in 1900. To them were born nine children, seven of whom are living: Mrs. Mary Hector, of Avoca, Iowa; Mrs. Emma Hector, of Walnut, Iowa; Mrs. Eliza Slade, of Des Moines; Mrs. Caroline Shannon, of Nichols, Iowa; Charles, whose history is portrayed in this connection; Alfreda, of Chicago; Mrs. Elizabeth Sauer, of Denver, Colorado.

Charles Hechtner received his education in the public schools of Muscatine county, Iowa, and at the age of twenty-four he began farming for himself in his native county. In 1892 he came to Sac county and purchased two hundred and forty acres in Coon Valley township, on which he is living today. He is an expert raiser of corn, and in 1913 had forty acres of corn which averaged sixty-five bushels to the acre; is a large raiser of live stock and markets from twenty-five to fifty head of cattle and one hundred head of hogs annually. He is also a large breeder of Percheron horses and has ten head of these fine animals on his farm at the present time. He has a fine modern home which he erected in 1898, as well as large barns and other outbuildings. When he bought his farm, much of it was of such swampy character that it was not in a condition to raise any crops at all—in fact, only twenty acres of it was cultivated when he took charge of the farm, but by a system of scientific ditching he has brought all of the farm under cultivation. The land originally cost him six thousand five hundred dollars; it is now worth over sixty thousand dollars. He has spent sixteen thousand

dollars in improvement, in the way of buildings, ditching and fencing, and he now has two complete sets of buildings on his land.

Mr. Hechtner was married March 1, 1888, to Hattie Belle Messenger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Messenger, of Muscatine county, Iowa. To this union have been born three children: Mrs. Elsie May Brynteson, of Sac City, born June 5, 1891; Charles Lloyd, who was born January 21, 1904, and Robert Raymond, who was born March 26, 1908.

Mr. Hechtner has been active in the Republican party for many years and has filled many township offices, as well as the position of county supervisor for six years. He was selected as county supervisor in 1906 and so efficient was his administration that he was re-elected in 1909, terminating his second term on January 1, 1913. He and his family are regular attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church and contribute liberally of their means to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Successful in business, respected in social life and efficient as administrator of various duties in public affairs, Mr. Hechtner has been a prominent factor in the life of his township and county. He has at all times discharged his duties in a manner becoming an intelligent citizen and justly earns the high esteem in which he is held by a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county.

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### JOHN G. HECHTNER.

Every nation on the face of the earth has contributed to the population of the one hundred million occupying the United States as their home. Every nation in Europe has contributed its quota to the incoming tide of immigrants who annually flock to the shores of this country. In the olden times people lived and died in communities where they were born, but in the nineteenth century, when the fame of the United States was broadened throughout the world, the ambitious people of the world turned their eyes to America, the Land of Opportunity, flocking here literally by the millions. Thus it comes about that we have, scattered throughout the United States, couples who have come together, whose native homes were often thousands of miles apart. The family history of John G. Hechtner, which forms the theme of the present narrative, is an illustration of the fact and shows what the civilization of the nineteenth century has accomplished. His father was born in



Prussia, his mother in Switzerland, while he himself was born in Illinois, in the United States of America.

John G. Hechtner, a prosperous farmer of Coon Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, was born on December 13, 1868, in Bureau county, Illinois, near Princeton, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Mehlin) Hechtner. John Hechtner was born in Prussia and came to America when he was eighteen years of age with his father, Godfrey. Elizabeth Mehlin was born in Switzerland and came with her father to this country when she was sixteen years of age. It so happened that the fathers of Mr. and Mrs. John Hechtner settled in the same county in Illinois, and there John Hechtner and Elizabeth Mehlin met and were married. John Hechtner died in Princeton, Illinois, in 1901, at the age of sixty-three, and his wife is still living in that city. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Hechtner there are seven living: Mrs. Marion Rudigar, of Bureau county, Illinois; Mrs. Emma Dreman, of the same county; John G., with whom this narrative deals; Charles, of Chariton, Iowa; Mrs. Elizabeth Dreman, of Bureau county, Illinois; Mrs. Caroline Yingling, of Mannius, Illinois, and Mrs. Joseph Johnson, of near Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois.

John G. Hechtner was educated in the common schools of Bureau county, Illinois, later attended a business college at Davenport. When twenty-two years of age he went to Chicago, and for ten years was employed in the circulation department of the *Chicago Chronicle*. In 1901 he came to Sac county with his savings and purchased two hundred acres of land at fifty dollars an acre. In 1909 he added forty acres to his original purchase at a cost of ninety-six dollars an acre. Since coming to this county he has spent from ten to fifteen thousand dollars in the way of improvement. He has built a fine modern residence, remodeled his barn, tiled and fenced his farm. His land is today worth two hundred dollars an acre. In 1913 he had seventy-five acres of corn, which averaged sixty-five bushels to the acre. He annually puts on the market from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty head of hogs, and raises other live stock in proportion.

Mr. Hechtner was married November 30, 1892, in Tiskilwa, Illinois, to Jessie M. Sheldon. To this union five children have been born, three of whom are now living: Gertrude, born November 21, 1893; Marion, born October 27, 1905, and Bernard, born August 24, 1908.

Politically, Mr. Hechtner belongs to that intelligent class of voters who are classed as independent. Though he was reared a Democrat, he has exercised his right as an American citizen and voted for the best man irrespective of their politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Ac-



cepted Masons, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Hechtner has established a reputation for honesty of purpose in all his dealings with his fellow men and by being an advocate of clean and wholesome principle in politics, in home life, in everything which touches the welfare of his community, he has come to be regarded as one of the representative men of the county.

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### GEORGE P. COLLINS.

Life holds possibilities for all of us, whether it be in the halls of the learned, within the temples of the great, in the marts of trade and barter, or in close communion with nature in all her various moods and changes of temperament. The agriculturist is, to the comprehension of the philosopher and observer, the individual thrice blessed in his privilege of being closely allied with nature in the pleasant and beneficent task of inducing the elements of the soil and the atmosphere to combine in yielding the necessary foods which form the sustenance of all human life. When, in the eventide of his years, the tiller of the soil retires to the enjoyment of a well-earned repose, he is again blessed if he be enabled to further enlarge his comprehension by the indulgence of his mental acumen in the assimilation of literary productions which have always appealed to his mind. Such a gentleman is he whose name forms the caption of this creation of the biographer.

George P. Collins, of whom this narrative is written, was born in the town of East Hartford, Connecticut, the direct descendant of a long line of illustrious New England ancestors. He belongs to the family of Pitkins on his mother's side, and is a near relative of Governor Pitkin, of Connecticut. The family originated in America with William Pitkin, who emigrated from England in 1659, and settled in Connecticut. The present site of the city of Hartford formed a pasture in those early days for the grazing proclivities of his oxen. The ancestral Pitkin home was built on the east banks of the historic Connecticut river. Several of the Pitkin family fought in the Revolutionary War, and later gave their services in behalf of their country in the War of 1812.

The birthdate of George P. Collins is recorded as being on July 2, 1851. He was the son of Orin T. and Charlotte Pitkin Collins. O. T. Collins, the father, was born in South Gastonbury, Connecticut, and was the son of Isaac Collins. His birth occurred January 3, 1823, and he departed this life Septem-



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE P. COLLINS



ber 7, 1901. It is recorded in the annals of New England that the first ancestor of George P. to arrive in America was a member of the Willisfield colony of freemen in the state of Connecticut. From him has descended a numerous and distinguished progeny. Charlotte, wife of O. T. Collins, was born August 14, 1821, and died May 7, 1878. She was the daughter of George Pitkin.

O. T. Collins and family migrated to Bureau county, Illinois, in the year 1855, and settled on a farm. He became prominently identified with the creation of a component part of the great state of Illinois and lived a long and useful life in the land of his adoption. He was the father of five children: George P.; Mrs. Lottie E. Rose, residing in Kansas; Sophia, a resident of Parkridge, Illinois; Charles P., of Redwood Falls, Minnesota; Laura C. Collins, of Parkridge, Illinois.

This brief chronicle directly concerns the life and fortunes of George P. Collins, however, and we will now resume the narrative direct. He was educated in the district schools of Westfield township, Bureau county, Illinois, and always showed an aptitude for learning. Further advance beyond the common schools was denied him, however, and he took up the vocation of farming. In the year 1883 he left the vicinity of his early struggles and journeyed to Ida county, Iowa, and there purchased a farm in Galva township, on which he and his family resided until 1894. He then disposed of his holdings in the neighboring county and invested in a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Eureka township, Sac county. He resided on this farm until December of 1909, and then removed to a pleasant home in the nearby town of Schaller.

Mr. Collins' political affiliations are with the Republican party, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He is fraternally affiliated with the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Collins was united in marriage with Emma Holler in LaSalle county, Illinois, December 31, 1874. She was born in LaSalle county, the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Ott) Höller, natives of Germany and Pennsylvania, respectively. Philip Holler was born in September, 1820, in the German empire, and first settled in Pennsylvania after his emigration to the States. He later became one of the pioneer settlers of LaSalle county, Illinois, and it is recorded that he drove a six-horse team overland from Pennsylvania to the newer country. He died in the month of June, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins have reared an interesting family of four children, namely: Elizabeth, the efficient and capable manager of a store in Kingsley,

Iowa; Charles, who is tilling the homestead acres and who is the parent of two children, George, Jr., and Millicent; Mrs. Lucy Watson, of Eureka township, who is the mother of three children, Elizabeth, Marjorie and John; Frank Collins, a farmer in Eureka township, and who has one child, Ruth.

George P. Collins, by virtue of his exemplary life and his successful career as a farmer and husbandman, is fully entitled to a place of honor among the citizens of this county, and we are pleased to present this encomium for the perusal of his friends and associates. He has been fortunate in his inheritance of preconceived notions of duty and abilities above the average, as a natural birthright bequeathed by a long line of sturdy and upright ancestors, whose lives and the inspiration derived therefrom have been a guiding light for him and his in their progress.

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### J. J. SPICER.

One of the prominent citizens of Coon Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, who has made a success of two distinct vocations in life, is J. J. Spicer, formerly a civil engineer, now a successful farmer in this township. The experience and training which he gained in that profession have not come amiss in his farm work, and, again, his knowledge gained through extensive traveling while in the employ of various railroad companies has given him a better view and a grasp of the bigger problems of life, which has contributed not a little to his success.

J. J. Spicer was born December 16, 1870, in Iowa county, Wisconsin. His parents were Francis and Margaret (Baker) Spicer. His father was born December 15, 1833, in Devonshire, England, while his mother was a native of Ohio. His parents came to Sac county in March, 1880, where his father died March 16, 1904; his mother later married Mr. Towle, of Nemaha, Sac county, and is now living in that place, at the advanced age of seventy-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Spicer were the parents of eight children, only two of whom are now living, Mrs. Helen Margaret Gary, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and J. J., with whom this narrative deals.

J. J. Spicer was educated in the public schools of Wisconsin and Sac county, Iowa. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-seven years of age, helping his father with the work on the farm. He had been interested in surveying since a youth and took up the scientific study of the subject with a view of entering that profession. He became qualified to enter the pro-

fession and entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway and for several years followed surveying in the Northwest and Canada. However, his marriage, in 1899, caused him to change his plans, and in 1900 he quit the surveying business and returned to Sac City, where he later purchased two residence properties. In the spring of 1908 he bought a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Coon Valley township, and in March of that year moved on to the farm and has continued to reside there up to the present time. In his farming, Mr. Spicer has been as successful as he was in his civil engineering, and having had some previous experience in agriculture, it was not hard for him to soon adjust himself to the latest methods of farming. In 1914 Mr. Spicer rented his farm and expects to move again to Sac City.

Mr. Spicer was married April 5, 1899, to Mary Fetter, of Sac City, and to this union have been born two children, Orville, deceased, and Fanny, who is now twelve years of age. Politically, Mr. Spicer is a Republican, but the nature of his business up until 1900 kept him out of politics practically altogether. Since then he has been taking an intelligent interest in the affairs of his party, but has never been a candidate for any public office, being content to serve in the ranks of the organization. All of those qualities which go to make ideal citizenship Mr. Spicer is well equipped with, and among those with whom he associates he is held in high regard. His life has been conducted along the lines laid down by the Golden Rule and his relations with his fellow-men have ever been such as to place his good name beyond criticism.

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#### NESTOR B. IRWIN.

The country today is more dependent upon the work of the farmer than ever before, and with the increase in population the work of the farmer is becoming increasingly important. As the country becomes older and as the soil in any particular locality becomes depleted in fertility, it becomes more important that the farmer know something about scientific farming. As long as the soil was fertile anyone could raise good crops, but after a number of years have passed by, the same farmer, using the same methods, would barely be able to make a living. Today in the older sections of our country the farmer has to feed his soil, the same as feeding his live stock—in other words, scientific farming has become a necessity. Originally, the state of Iowa had as fertile land as could be found any place in the United

States, yet the time is sure to come when the fertility of the soil will be depleted if skillful crop rotation and scientific methods are not used to keep the soil to its highest state of productivity.

Nestor B. Irwin, a progressive farmer of Coon Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, and a man who has adapted himself to the advanced methods of agriculture, was born July 6, 1856, in Des Moines county, Iowa. His parents, Robert and Mary (Bailes) Irwin, were natives of Ohio, and came to Tama county, Iowa, in 1868, where they lived until their death, the mother dying in 1898 and the father two years later. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Irwin were the parents of six children: M. A., of Lake View, Iowa; N. B., with whom this narrative deals; Emmor, of Colfax, Iowa; George, of Albert City, Iowa; Mrs. O. D. Taylor, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Mrs. Edward Cobb, of Green Mountain, this state. The two youngest were born in Tama county, Iowa.

Nestor B. Irwin came from Burlington to Tama county, Iowa, with his parents when he was eight years of age, and received his education in Tama county. When he was twenty-one years of age he came to Sac county and worked for a while. His father, who was a large land owner, gave him eighty acres in this county, and he worked on this farm for some time, but did not make a permanent home in Sac county until his marriage, February 26, 1890. After his marriage he settled on the farm which his father had given him in this county in 1890, and since that time has made all of the improvements which he now has. He has built a new and modern home, erected barns and good outbuildings, and brought the farm to a place where it is giving a handsome return annually. In addition to the eighty acres which he owns in Coon Valley township, this county, Mr. Irwin also has one hundred and sixty acres in Minnesota. He recognizes the value of systematic crop rotation and is always on the alert for any new methods by which he thinks he can increase his returns from his farm.

Mr. Irwin was married February 26, 1890, to Laura Fike, who was born in Benton county, Iowa, the daughter of Moses and Emeline (Yeager) Fike, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania. Her parents came to Benton county, Iowa, in 1850. The father of Moses Fike was Christian Fike, an early pioneer of Benton county and one of its largest land owners. He reared a family of thirteen children and gave to each one of his children a farm. Moses Fike died in 1911, his wife having died when Mrs. Irwin was a child. Mr. and Mrs. Moses Fike were the parents of six children: Mrs. Caroline Collins, who lives in Colorado; Laura, the wife of Mr. Irwin; Samuel, of Vancouver, British Columbia; Frank, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma;



George, of Woodward, Oklahoma, and Edwin, of Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have no children.

The Republican party has always claimed the support of Mr. Irwin, and although he is well informed upon the current issues of the day he has never been an active party man. Public office has never held any charms for him, having always preferred to give all of his time to his agricultural interests. He and his wife are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and give of their means to its support. Mrs. Irwin is a member of the Ladies' Aid Society. Possessing a splendid business ability, Mr. Irwin has been successful in material way, and because of his sterling qualities he is numbered among the representative men of the community in which he lives.

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#### ANDREW J. FRIESNER.

The importance that attaches to the lives, character and work of the early settlers of Sac county and the influence they have exerted upon the cause of humanity and civilization is one of the most absorbing themes that can possibly attract the attention of the local chronicler of histories. If great and beneficent results—results that endure and bless mankind—are the proper measure of the good men do, then who is there in the world's history that can take their places above the hardy pioneer? To point out the way, to make possible our present advancing civilization, its happy homes, its arts and sciences, its discoveries and inventions, its education, literature, culture, refinement and social life and joy, is to be the truly great benefactors of mankind for all time. This was the great work accomplished by the early settlers, and it is granted by all that they builded wiser than they knew. Admit that, as a rule, but few ever realized in the dimmest way the transcendent possibilities that rested upon their shoulders; grant it that their lives, in certain instances, were somewhat narrow and that they realized but little the great results that ultimately crowned their efforts, yet there exists the supreme fact that they followed their restless impulses, took their lives in their hands, penetrated the wilderness and, with a patient energy, resolution and self-sacrifice that stands alone and unparalleled, they worked out their allotted tasks, accomplished their destinies and today their descendants and others enjoy undisturbed the fruitage of their labors.

Among the worthy class referred to above, there is no one who deserves more honorable mention among the citizens of Sac county than A. J. Friesner,

who was born July 18, 1859, in Coles county, Illinois. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Friesner and came to Sac county from Illinois in 1866, when he was seven years of age. He has spent his whole life in this county and has devoted his career to agricultural interests. He now has eighty acres of excellent farming land in Coon Valley township, on which he raises all of the crops peculiar to this climate.

Mr. Friesner was married in 1886 to Matilda Cleveland, of Sac county, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Cleveland. To this union have been born fourteen children, Noah, Fred, Herbet, Robert, Joseph, Archie, Floyd, Henry, Arnold, Lester, Elsie, Laura, Golden and Pearl. All of these children, except the oldest, are at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Friesner has always identified himself with the Republican party, but, while taking an interest in the success of his party, has never taken an active part in its various activities. Mr. Friesner is one of the farmers in Sac county who were here in 1870, and for this reason he thoroughly appreciates the wonderful advance which has been made in civilization in this county in the past forty years. He has seen the county grow from a broad prairie tract to its present prosperous condition and has taken his full share in bringing about this change. Being a man of industry and strict integrity, he has, by his clean and wholesome life since living in this county, won the esteem of a large circle of friends.

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### CONRAD A. RITTER.

The United States is indebted to Germany more than any other country in Europe for the excellent citizens of that country who have made their permanent homes in this country. Almost without exception, the people of Germany who have become citizens of this country have become owners of property and been loyal citizens to their adopted country. Undoubtedly much of the prosperity of Sac county today is due to the energetic German citizens who have favored this country with their residence. The Ritters have contributed their full share to the advancement of the county. Conrad A. Ritter, whose history is here presented, is a citizen of whom any county should be proud to claim.

Conrad A. Ritter, who is farming two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in Coon Valley township and is the owner of one hundred and forty-nine acres, was born March 2, 1876, in Benton county, Iowa. He is the

son of George and Elizabeth (Reifsnnyder) Ritter, both of whom were born and reared in Germany. They were married in their native land and in 1870 came from Germany to the United States and immediately settled in Benton county, Iowa. In 1879 they removed to Sac county and settled in Levey township. In their old age, the parents retired to Lake View to pass their declining years. George Ritter died in Dakota in 1908, while on a visit, and the mother is still living with her children. Mr. and Mrs. George Ritter were the parents of seven children, one of whom died in infancy, the remaining six children being as follows: Mrs. Sarah Wright, of Vermillion, South Dakota; Mrs. Mary Parsons, of Craig, Missouri; Conrad A.; Mrs. Katie Irwin, of Devon, Kansas; Mrs. Susan Ganger, of Devon, Kansas; Mrs. Elizabeth Cleveland, of Devon, Kansas.

Conrad A. Ritter was educated in the district schools of Sac county. At the age of eighteen he began to learn the creamery business and for eleven years worked in the Gold Medal Creamery, which was located about seven miles southwest of Early. For the past eight years he has been farming, buying his present farm in 1908 at one hundred and ten dollars an acre. In 1913 he had one hundred acres of corn which averaged fifty bushels to the acre and twenty acres of pop corn, which averaged thirty-five bushels to the acre. In 1912, which was a much better season, Mr. Ritter had corn which averaged eighty-five bushels to the acre and in that year he had fifteen acres of corn which averaged one hundred bushels to the acre. He raises a large amount of stock for the market each year and sells annually about twenty-five head of cattle and from seventy-five to a hundred head of hogs.

Mr. Ritter identifies himself with the Republican party and is in sympathy with the Progressive element of his party. While never having been a candidate for any public office, he takes an intelligent interest in the affairs of the party. The Ritter family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and give their assistance to the various activities of that denomination. Fraternally, Mr. Ritter is a member of the Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Ritter was married on August 8, 1900, to Myrtle Irwin, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Irwin. Mrs. Ritter is a graduate of the Odebolt high school and taught school one year. George Ritter was born in Pennsylvania and came west with his parents to Linn county, where he married Margaret Cook. They came to Sac county in 1885 and settled in Clinton township where the father died in 1887, leaving four children: Charles P., of Devon, Kansas; George H., deceased; Jay C., near Lakeview, and Myrtle Ritter. To this marriage have been born five children, four of whom are

living: Esther Mabel, age eight years; Charles Wesley, age six; Laura May and Lawrence J., twins, who are now two years of age. Mr. Ritter has always taken an active part in the various phases of the community life where he lives and is well known as a man of excellent reputation and high character.

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### JOHN R. MARKLEY.

One of Eden township's agriculturists and stock men who is deserving of a place in this volume is John R. Markley, a man of courage, self-reliance and of the utmost integrity of purpose, as a result of which he has, during his entire life, stood high in the estimation of his neighbors and friends, whose interests he has sought to promote while endeavoring to advance his own.

John R. Markley, proprietor of a half section of fine farming land in Eden township, Sac county, Iowa, was born June 6, 1878, on the farm where he is now residing. His parents were Isaac M. and Emmeline (McLaughlin) Markley. Isaac Markley was born May 5, 1841, in Canada, and died in Sac county, Iowa, August 15, 1903. His people left Canada and were among the early settlers of Alamakee county, this state, and came to Sac county in its early history. His possessions were a mule team and a yoke of oxen. His wife, Emmeline McLaughlin, was born April 13, 1858, in Palo Alto county, Iowa, and died in Sac county, this state, in 1903. They were the parents of four children: William, deceased; Harvey A., of Storm Lake, Iowa; John R., whose history is here presented, and Ernest A., of Buena Vista county, Iowa.

John R. Markley has always lived on the farm where he is now making his home. He received a good, common school education and assisted his father with the management of his large estate until his father's death, in 1903. Upon his father's death the estate was divided among the children and he received three hundred and twenty acres as his share.

Mr. Markley was married December 18, 1907, to Magdalena Halling, born March 29, 1888, in Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, daughter of John and Anna Christina Halling. John Halling was born November 28, 1856, and is now living in Cook township, this county. His wife, Anna, was born September 23, 1865, and died December 10, 1897. Both Mr. and Mrs. John Halling were natives of Schleswig, Germany. They were the parents of six children, Oda May, Magdalena, Lillian, deceased, John Andrew, deceased, Raymond and Emily Amelia, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Mark-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN R. MARKLEY



ley have two children, Hazel Fay, born September 26, 1908, and Leslie Raymond, born July 14, 1912. Mr. Markley has been a Republican since casting his first vote, but has never felt inclined to be an active participant in political affairs. He and his wife have a charming home and are the center of a large circle of friends and acquaintances who delight in their genuine hospitality.

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### CHRISS J. THIELHORN.

It is the pride of the citizens of this country that there is no limit to which natural ability, industry and honesty may not aspire. A boy born in ignorance and poverty and reared amidst the most adverse surroundings, may nevertheless break from his fetters and rise to the highest station in the land. Thousands of young men of German parentage have realized how easy it is for a man of courage and willing hands to rise in our republic and have accordingly cast their lots with us, with the result that they have benefited themselves as well as the communities in which they have settled. Sac county's German citizens bear witness to the fact that America is indeed the land of opportunity. Among the citizens of German parentage who are now prosperous farmers in Sac county, Iowa, there is no one who is more prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Coon Valley township than C. J. Thielhorn, whose brief history is here given to the reader.

Chriss J. Thielhorn, the proprietor of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Coon Valley township, was born February 18, 1885, on the home farm in Sac county, the son of Christ and Fredericka (Wulkow) Thielhorn, who were both natives of Germany, coming to Sac county, Iowa, about 1878. Christ Thielhorn was born in 1844, and upon coming to this country with his family, he soon became one of the substantial farmers of this country. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Christ Thielhorn: Mrs. Lottie Reaman, of Calhoun county, Iowa; C. J., whose history forms the theme of this narrative, and A. W., who was born in the county December 6, 1886.

C. J. Thielhorn received his education in the schools of his home neighborhood, and early in life decided that he would follow in the footsteps of his father, and, with this end in view, he helped his father on the home farm until his marriage in order to become thoroughly familiar with all the details of farm life. It is said that there are "tricks in all trades," and this trite expression is peculiarly true of the farmer. The successful farmer of today



must not only be a man who can handle the plow, but he must also have some knowledge of a dozen other professions. In a small way he must be a veterinary surgeon, a blacksmith, a harness maker, a carpenter, etc., and the most successful farmer is a man who can do these various things in the best way.

Mr. Thielhorn was married in 1907 to Matilda Brehm, and to this marriage have been born three children, Chriss E., Irene Mildred and Fern Evlyn. Politically, Mr. Thielhorn is a Democrat, but the affairs of his home and farm have demanded all of his attention, so that he has had little time to devote to political questions. In his religious belief he and his family are loyal members of the German Lutheran church, giving to it liberally of their time and substance. Mr. Thielhorn has always lent his aid to the best interests of his community, and has given his support to all movements having for their object the welfare of his fellow citizens. He is not backward in expressing his honest convictions on any subject affecting the welfare of the community, and for this reason is deservedly popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### ALBERT D. MINER.

One of the most prosperous farmers of Coon Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, is A. D. Miner, who was born December 7, 1846, in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. His parents were Ransom H. and Lucinda (Post) Miner. Ransom H. Miner was born August 25, 1809, and was the son of Asher Miner, a native of New York who bought land in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in about 1836 from the government at one dollar and a quarter an acre. Asher Miner was born in Schoharie county, New York. Ransom H. Miner came from New York to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, when he was twenty-nine years of age and lived there until his death in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Ransom H. Miner were the parents of eight children: Lwelleyns V., deceased; John A., deceased; Mary A., deceased; Gertrude E., deceased; Beulah A., deceased; Mrs. L. M. Scofield, of Chicago; Mrs. Jennie Harris, of Stockton, Illinois, and A. D., with whom this narrative deals.

A. D. Miner was reared and educated in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and was married in that state. About ten years later he came from Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and settled in Jackson county, Iowa, coming to this state in 1882. In 1892 he moved to Clinton county, where he lived for eight years. In February, 1900, he came to Sac county and bought his farm of one hundred and forty acres in Coon Valley township for seventy-six dollars an acre.

Later he purchased forty acres, for which he paid one hundred dollars an acre. This land is now easily worth two hundred dollars an acre. Mr. Miner still owns ten acres in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, which was a part of the land which was homesteaded by his grandfather in 1836.

Mr. Miner was married in 1873 to Ella A. Watts, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and to this marriage have been born six children: Mrs. Florence E. Wilson, of Cedar township; Dwight L., of Jackson township, who is farming one hundred and twenty acres; Abby G.; Kingsley A., born March 29, 1887, and now engaged in real estate and land business in Sac City; Paul R., who is at home, and Frank Watts, a student at Ames College.

In politics, Mr. Miner has been affiliated with the Republican party since he cast his first vote. While living in this state he has held various township offices, in all of which he performed satisfactory service. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have always taken a deep interest in church activities. Mr. Miner is a member of various fraternal insurance orders. He has always been active in the public affairs of his community and has performed his full part as a public-spirited citizen, and in the various official positions which he has filled he has used the same sound judgment and good business principles which he has exercised in his own personal affairs. Honest in his various business dealings and faithful to his many friends, he has won and retained the esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the township and county.

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### KINGSLEY ALBERT MINER.

One of the enterprising and rising young men who are native born to Sac county and who are making names and reputations for themselves in the marts of trade and in their chosen professions, is Kingsley A. Miner, the son of A. D. Miner, one of the substantial farmer citizens of the county. Marked aptitude and diligence characterizes the activities of this young man, who is highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities and for his quiet, gentlemanly methods of transacting his business affairs in the community. The headquarters of his business is located in Sac City, which place has been his home since leaving the home place in Coon Valley township to carve out a career for himself.

Kingsley Albert Miner, of Sac City, was born on a farm in Sac county, March 29, 1887, and was educated in the district schools of his neighborhood.

the Sac City high school, the Auburn high school and the Highland Park Seminary. For the past four years he has followed the difficult profession of sales and live stock auctioneer and is meeting with creditable success in his life work. He devotes his activities to the promotion of land sales and handles considerable real estate and also devotes some attention to the insurance business. His specialties, however, are the sale and purchase of farm lands and the crying of public sales for the people of the surrounding community. Although Mr. Miner is young in years, he is gifted with a poise and ability common to older heads and is universally liked and esteemed for his many sterling qualities of heart and mind.

Mr. Miner was united in marriage with Irene Furman, June 10, 1914. He is religiously associated with the Methodist Episcopal denomination and is an Odd Fellow. Politically, he is allied with the Republican party.

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### THEODORE JACOBSEN.

The little peninsula of Jetland, in Europe, has furnished a few sturdy farmers for Sac county, Iowa. The people of Denmark have always been prosperous and for that reason a great many of its citizens have emigrated to this country. A few of the more ambitious and hardy sons of Denmark have come to America and a few of these have made their permanent homes in Sac county. History recounts that in the medieval ages, and even before then, the Danes were the great rovers of the sea, and for more than a thousand years people of the little kingdom of Denmark have been known as a people of sturdy qualities of character. Among the few citizens of Sac county who are of Danish descent is Theodore Jacobsen, a prosperous farmer of Wall Lake township.

Theodore Jacobsen was born January 28, 1860, in Denmark and is the son of Hans and Helena Jacobsen. He received a good practical education in his native land and there learned the little habits of thrift and industry which have characterized his successful career in this county. Upon reaching his majority in 1881 he decided to come to America to seek his fortune. Accordingly he came to this country and settled in Livingston county, Illinois, where he lived until 1902, working by the month, and later by renting farms. In 1902 he came to Sac county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres for fifty-five dollars an acre. The family moved to the farm in Wall Lake township in 1903. In the last twelve years this land has in-

creased fourfold in value and is now worth at least two hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. Mr. Jacobsen has always been a hard working man and has been assisted by an excellent wife who has done her full share towards the success of her husband.

Mr. Jacobsen was married on March 23, 1883, to Margretta Amomsen, of Illinois. She was born in Denmark and came to this country alone and settled in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen have been born six children: Hans C., of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Lena Heath, of Sac City; Mrs. Katie Quinlan, of Wall Lake township, and John and Theresa, who are still with their parents.

Mr. Jacobsen has cast his vote for the Republican party since he was naturalized, but owing to his many interests on the farm he has never taken a prominent part in politics. He and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church and help with the various activities of that denomination. Mr. Jacobsen has truly been the architect of his own fortune and upon his entire career since coming to this country there rests no blemish. He has been true to the highest ideals of American citizenship and has become one of the worthy and representative men of Sac county, Iowa.

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### J. B. TOURGEE.

Among the younger members of the legal profession in Sac county is J. B. Tourgee, of the firm of Elwood & Tourgee, of Sac City. Although he has been in the county only a short time, yet he has already impressed those with whom he has come in contact as a man of good legal ability and one who can take his full share in the life of the community. Mr. Tourgee was born October 30, 1875, in Ashtabula county, Ohio, and is the son of H. H. and Alice E. (Morse) Tourgee. Both of his parents were born in Ohio and were descendants of pioneer New England families. H. H. Tourgee attended school in the old Chester Seminary and Oberlin College, Ohio. After finishing his course, H. H. Tourgee went onto a farm in his native state and in 1877 came with his family to Ida county, Iowa, and purchased a farm, becoming one of the successful farmers of the county. Two years before his death he retired to Ida Grove, where he died in November, 1905. His wife is still living in Ida Grove. They were the parents of two children, Carl H., of Ida Grove, Iowa, and J. B., with whom this narrative deals.

J. B. Tourgee was reared on his father's farm and educated in the Sac

City Institute, from which institution he graduated in 1900. He then entered the State University of Iowa and graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Law in 1903. Upon his graduation he started the practice of his profession in Armour, South Dakota, but a year later disposed of his practice and located in Holstein, Iowa, where he remained until the fall of 1912. On September 1, 1912, he came to Sac City and became a member of the firm of Elwood & Tourgee.

Mr. Tourgee was married January 1, 1906, to Dora B. Trumbauer, of Lytton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. Trumbauer. To this union have been born two children, Mildred and Alice. Politically, Mr. Tourgee is a Republican, but has never taken an active part in politics. However, he is a close observer of the various political questions of the day and has decided convictions on the big issues which are now confronting the American people. Mr. Tourgee is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and has taken the degrees of the chapter. Being well grounded in legal principles and having a comprehensive view of life gained from experience, Mr. Tourgee is well qualified to give to his clients excellent service. As a speaker he is clear and concise and effective in presenting the issues of the case. He gives his support to every movement which promotes the advancement of the educational, moral or social welfare of his community, and as a citizen of Sac City he is anxious to do all in his power to make it a good city in which to live.

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### LEWIS T. QUIRK.

Among the men of Sac county, Iowa, who have been closely identified with the material, moral and educational advancement of its various interests, is Lewis T. Quirk, the present proprietor of Fairacres farm. He has not only been a successful farmer of this county, but he has also occupied many positions of trust and honor which have come to him by reason of his ability to fill them. He has been a public school teacher, a township clerk and township assessor, and in all these positions of trust he has administered their duties in a manner which was entirely satisfactory to his constituents. Being a man of education, he has actively identified himself with all measures which were brought forward to advance the interests of his community, and for that reason he is a representative man of his township and county.

Lewis T. Quirk, the son of Thomas and Mary (Cain) Quirk, was born

January 20, 1874, in Clinton county, Iowa. His parents were both natives of the Isle of Man, a small island lying between England and Ireland, where they were reared and married. They came to America in 1866 and settled in Clinton county, Iowa, and in March, 1875, permanently located in Sac county, on a farm near where their son, Lewis, is now living. Thomas Quirk and wife were the parents of three children: Mrs. Mary McWilliams, of Clinton township; Lewis T., with whom this narrative deals, and George, of Cook township. Mary Cain, the mother of Lewis Quirk, had been married previous to her union with Thomas Quirk. Her first husband was a Mr. Moore, of the Isle of Man, who died in that island. By her first marriage there were two children reared, Sage E. Moore, deceased, the wife of Robert Mylchrist, deceased, formerly of Cook township. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Mylchrist married a Mr. Hayes, and in the summer of 1913 Mrs. Hayes died in Rapid City, South Dakota. The other child of the first marriage of Mrs. Thomas Quirk was J. D. Moore, who is now living in Schaller, Iowa.

Lewis T. Quirk was educated in the district schools of Levey township, this county, and later spent one year in the Sac Institute and one year in Morningside College, of Sioux City, Iowa. He then taught school for six years in Sac county, spending his summer vacation in farming. In 1899 he began farming for himself, having previously been in partnership with his father. In 1906 he bought his present farm of eighty acres, and has so improved it that it is now worth two hundred dollars an acre. In 1913 he erected a fine, modern bungalow of eight rooms, at a cost of three thousand dollars. In addition to the raising of the grains common to this locality, Mr. Quirk has been a breeder of Shorthorn cattle for the past twelve years and now has a herd of thoroughbred Shorthorns, numbering twenty-five. He also raises hogs and in 1913 produced fifty head which found a ready market at a good price. He is a member of the Shorthorn Breeders Association of Sac County and takes an active interest in the cattle department of the Sac County Fair Association.

Mr. Quirk was married on April 18, 1899, to Fannie L. Fox, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Fox, and to this union there has been born one son, Edward L., born August 20, 1913.

Politically, Mr. Quirk is a Republican, and has served two terms as clerk of Clinton township and one term as assessor of Levey township. He filled both these important offices to the entire satisfaction of the citizens, irrespective of their political affiliations, and made one of the most satisfactory officials these townships ever had. Fraternally, he is a member of the

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, while, religiously, he and his wife are both loyal and earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has thrown the force of his strong individuality, sterling integrity and uprightness into the advancement of the interests of his township and his efforts have not failed of appreciation on the part of his fellow citizens. He has had his full share in bringing his township to the front, and has the satisfaction of feeling that his work has been acceptable to the best citizens of his community.

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### COL. FESTUS J. GREEN.

There are some professions which demand a certain amount of native talent, and without this no man can make a success of that particular profession. Some one has said that man can train himself for practically any line of business, but there is one profession which takes a number of qualities of a peculiar nature in order to bring about success in that particular line. It is safe to say that the profession of the auctioneer demands certain innate characteristics which are not possessed by every man. A man must be a good judge of human nature, a psychologist, in order to judge what to do and how to do it at the proper time. The auctioneer must first of all have a good voice, which means that he must be a man of good physique; secondly, he must have a thorough knowledge of the goods which he attempts to sell; and, thirdly, he must be a reader of human nature in order to carry his conversation so as to keep his buyers in a happy frame of mind; and, lastly, he must be absolutely honest, or he will soon lose the confidence of the citizens of a community.

Col. Festus J. Green, a retired farmer, successful business man, and one of the most prominent auctioneers of this section of the country, has all of the characteristics which go to make up the successful auctioneer. He was born March 29, 1857, in Somersetshire, England. His parents were Harry and Elizabeth (Popham) Green, his father being a tailor by trade in his native land. Neither of Colonel Green's parents ever came to this country and both have long since passed away. He was self educated, for the reason that he had no opportunity to attend the schools in his country, but he has read and studied at home until he now is well qualified to speak upon any of the current topics of the day. The nature of his profession demands that he keep in close touch with a great variety of interests, and the success which





COL. FESTUS J. GREEN



has attended his efforts on the block indicate that his reading has not been in vain.

Colonel Green came to America in 1872, at the age of fourteen years, and located at Manchester, Iowa. Before leaving his native country he had learned the brick and stone trade and followed this profession in Manchester for five years. In 1878 he returned to England, but came back to this country seven months later and located at Dyersville, Iowa, where he farmed until 1894, then moved to Early, in Sac county, where he has since resided. He purchased a farm of two hundred and eighty-five acres two miles from Early, and has been engaged in breeding thoroughbred Hereford cattle, and he has shown his cattle in various county fairs, as well as the state fair of Iowa, and has taken many prizes. He has been one of the most prominent members of the Sac County Fair Association, and has been superintendent of the cattle department ever since the association was organized.

While Colonel Green has been a success as a farmer, his greatest reputation has been won in the auctioneer's field. He is strictly a self-taught man in this profession, and since he started in 1824 his fame has increased until he has cried live stock sales in California, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Nebraska, as well as all over his own state. He receives the highest salary as an auctioneer of any man in the state of Iowa. His record of farm sales runs from seventy-five to one hundred a season, and every year he has a sale for every day in December. His fame as an auctioneer is such that people come for miles to hear him talk, who have no other reason for coming than to hear the admirable way in which he conducts his sales.

Colonel Green was married in 1883 in Dubuque county, Iowa, to Ada House, and to this union there have been born seven children: Harry, a rancher of Montana; Alonzo, a salesman in a dry goods store in Mobridge, South Dakota; Elmer, of Storm Lake, Iowa, where he is operating a meat market; Roy, a professional ball player with the Storm Lake baseball club; Charles, who is a student in the high school at Early; Blanche, who is a book-keeper in a hardware store at Early, and Hazel, who is at home with her parents.

Colonel Green is a follower of the Republican party, but has never been a candidate for any public office. In his religious belief he adheres to the Presbyterian church, as do the other members of his family. He is a member of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Early, and a member of the chapter and commandery at Sac City, and of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias at Early. In 1908

Colonel Green made a trip to England, and visited the London horse show, as well as his old home. Colonel and Mrs. Green have a fine home in Early, where they dispense genuine hospitality to their many friends. He is a progressive and substantial citizen who is always interesting himself in the welfare of his home city.

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### DONALD McCORKINDALE.

In Donald McCorkindale, of Clinton township, we had a true representative of the empire builders and one who accomplished more than the ordinary man since he came into the county nearly forty years ago and purchased a tract of unbroken prairie land. His herds of cattle and droves of horses now feed over thousands of acres of Sac county land where at first it was necessary for him to be content with a few hundred acres purchased on a time contract similar to that of the other settlers in his neighborhood. He was known far and wide as one of the largest land owners and one of the ablest financiers of the section in a decade—yet, he was just a plain farmer, shrewd and intelligent, a son of Scotland who naturally inherited the excellent traits peculiar to his forbears.

Mr. McCorkindale was born on the 14th day of the month of March, 1842, in Killean parish, Argyleshire, Scotland, the son of Donald and Jeanette (McNevin) McCorkindale. His father was a farmer in the old country who emigrated to America in the year 1865 with his family and settled in Clinton county, Iowa. Here Donald, Jr., worked in a sawmill for a period of five years and in 1870 Donald, Sr., removed to White county, Illinois, and purchased a farm. He resided in White county for five years and then moved to Odebolt, Sac county, in 1875. He was doubtless influenced to make this move because of the fact that nearly all of his children were settled in Sac county near Odebolt and he wished to be near them in his remaining days. The father died in 1895. He reared five sons and two daughters, namely: Donald; Neil, deceased; Malcolm, now a resident of Nebraska; Mrs. Richard Shileto, of Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Catharine Stuart, of Wall Lake, Iowa; Angus, who died in Clinton township in June, 1912; John, a rancher in Alberta, Canada, deceased in the spring of 1914.

Donald McCorkindale was twenty-three years of age when he came to America, landing in New York City in the month of June, 1865. He came west and was employed in the saw mills at Clinton, Iowa, for a period of five years. He went to Illinois in 1870 and spent two years there engaged in

farming in White county. In the spring of 1874 he came to Sac county and invested his savings in three hundred and twenty acres of land in Clinton township at four dollars and fifty cents an acre. During the first two years of his residence here he boarded and then married. Several years after marriage he made his next purchase of land and continued making additions to his holdings until he had over two thousand eight hundred acres in all. His most recent purchase was a portion of the Cook ranch, which he bought in 1909, and consisting of five hundred and sixty acres at prices ranging from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and thirty-five dollars an acre. As early as 1885 he began breeding fine draft horses and met with wonderful success in this venture, having been at the time of his death the largest live stock breeder in the county. On his farm are two imported Clydesdale stallions which cost in the thousands of dollars to import; thirty-five head of fine thoroughbred draft animals which have been exhibited at the county fairs and have carried off ribbons on several occasions. He was also a breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle and had over three hundred and fifty head of pure breds on his home farm. In addition he was an extensive feeder and shipper of live stock, handling from three to five carloads annually.

Mr. McCorkindale was the owner of a total of two thousand seven hundred acres of farm lands, two thousand five hundred acres of which is in Sac county and two hundred acres in Crawford county. This land is now being farmed entirely by the sons of Mr. McCorkindale. Practically all of the land is being devoted to the live stock breeding and now is rented out except the Cook and Wall Lake lands. It is the second largest farm in the county which has been cultivated almost entirely by the owner and is at the present time the second largest farm in Sac county in the number of acres devoted to exclusive farming and live stock raising.

Mr. McCorkindale was married in October, 1876, to Mary Bremner, also a native of Scotland, born December 10, 1856, a daughter of James and Margaret (Kennard) Bremner, who emigrated to America from Scotland in 1866 and settled in Cedar county for seven years and then came to Crawford county in 1873, where both lie buried. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McCorkindale: Mrs. Jennie Morton, of Alberta, Canada; Daniel, on one of the home farms; Mrs. Margaret McQuistin, of Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Nicholson, of Jefferson, Dakota; James, at home; Isabel, William and Anna, at home with their parents.

Mr. McCorkindale was an independent in politics and had definite and pronounced views on matters affecting the government of the people. He usually voted for the man who seemed best fitted for the office than for the

representative of any political party. He and the members of his family have naturally espoused the religion of their forbears and were members of the Presbyterian church of Odebolt. His devoted and competent wife, who has been a wise and careful mother to her children, is still hale, hearty and intelligent, despite her advanced age. It might well be said of them that they were not old excepting in years. The home is a comfortable and hospitable one and, despite the tendency of the times for the farmer to retire to a life of ease and comfort in the towns, they preferred to remain on the farm. Donald desiring to be near the farm work and his fine live stock, and the mother desiring to care for and look after the welfare of her sons.

Donald McCorkindale passed away Monday night, May 18, 1914, at about ten-thirty o'clock before medical aid could be summoned. On the Sunday preceding he had attended church, as was his custom, and had appeared to be in the best of health. The funeral services were held on the Thursday following, May 21st, from the Odebolt Presbyterian church in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends. Rev. Robert McInturff officiated at the ceremony. Burial followed in the Odebolt cemetery. Rendition of the services with song and discourse was beautiful and impressive and in keeping with the character of the deceased.

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### WILLIAM LEWIS FRIESNER.

Among the native sons of Sac county, who have spent their entire lives within the limits of this county is William Lewis Friesner, whose many years of residence here have but served to strengthen the feeling of admiration on the part of his fellow men owing to the honorable life he has led and the worthy example he has set to the younger generation. He has ever enjoyed the respect and esteem of those with whom he has associated and no one stands higher in the admiration of his fellow citizens than he whose life is here presented.

William Lewis Friesner, a farmer of Coon Valley township, was born February 26, 1870, in the township where he has spent practically all of his life. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Friesner. After receiving a good common school education in the school of his neighborhood, he continued to reside with his parents until his marriage, at the age of twenty-three years, and since that time he has lived on part of the old home farm which he received from his father, and, with the exception of one year when

he lived in Greene county, this state, he has spent his entire life on the same farm. He is a practical and methodical man in all he does and his efforts have been rewarded by a fair share of success. He knows no such thing as idleness and has never slackened his efforts in order to maintain his farm at the highest possible standard of cultivation and agricultural excellence.

Mr. Friesner was married in 1893 to Gertrude Richards, of Sac county, and to this union have been born four children, Viva, Gladys, Ruby and Dorothy, all of whom are under the parental roof.

Mr. Friesner has always identified himself with the Republican party and, because of his recognized ability, his party has called upon him to serve in various official positions. He has been a school director for ten years in his township, and is now serving as trustee of Coon Valley township, filling the latter position with eminent satisfaction to his fellow citizens, irrespective of party affiliations, because he takes an active interest in all of the duties which is a part of this important office. In his religious relations he and his family are all loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America. His actions have always been the result of careful and conscientious thought and in all the relations of life he has done his full duty. He is active in social life and as a citizen and neighbor he discharges his duty in a manner becoming an intelligent American citizen, and has earned and retains the good will and regard of all who know him.

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#### AUGUST BETTIN.

The German immigrants to this country have been distinguished above all others for their thrift, economy and perseverance, qualities which have gained for them success almost without fail in whatever situation they have been placed and have made the communities settled by them prosperous beyond the average. These men have become devoted to their adopted country and take as active an interest in the welfare of this nation as they did in their native land. Among the typical German citizens of Sac county, Iowa, a man widely and favorably known among the people of Clinton township, and much beloved for his excellent character is August Bettin, who was born in Germany in 1853.

August Bettin was reared to young manhood in his native land, his father dying while he was young, after which his mother, Wilhelmina



Bettin, came to America. When he was eighteen years of age his mother and her husband and Mrs. Ernestine Kuhn, a sister of August, and now a resident of Benton county, Iowa, came to America, settling in Lee county, Illinois, in 1874, where his mother spent the rest of her life.

August Bettin married in Lee county, Illinois, in 1876, and in 1884 moved to Sac county, Iowa, and rented a farm for the first three years after his arrival here. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 23, Clinton township, for which he paid thirty-one and a quarter dollars an acre, and to this original purchase he has added other tracts at intervals until he is now the owner of four hundred acres in this township. The dates of his purchases and the prices paid for the land are here set forth, and are especially interesting in view of the fact that the land has increased so rapidly in value. His second purchase of eighty acres in 1896 cost him forty-two and a half dollars an acre; the first purchase of one hundred and sixty acres in 1901 was bought for fifty-six dollars an acre; the last purchase of forty acres in 1909, necessitated an outlay of ninety dollars an acre, and this gives him a total of four hundred and forty acres of fine farming land, which today is easily worth one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. He now has three sets of buildings on his land and every improvement which makes for better farming. He came to this county a poor man and is now one of the wealthiest men of his township, and has only one regret, namely, that he did not buy more land when it was cheap. When he came here and bought his first land in 1887, it was a prairie tract, destitute of trees, buildings or any improvements. He has erected the buildings, fenced and drained the land, set out orchards and planted several groves of trees. He raises large crops of grain and feeds most of it to his live stock, marketing at least twenty head of cattle and eighty head of hogs annually. Mr. Bettin possesses a keen sense of humor and believes in everybody enjoying themselves. He has now reached a position where he is able to take life easy and has turned the management of his farms over to his sons. He believes in providing well for his children, so that he can have them near him in his later days.

Mr. Bettin was married in 1876, in Illinois, to Kate Glein, a native of Germany, and to this marriage have been born four daughters and four sons, all of whom are living and are useful members of society: Charles, a farmer of Boyer Valley township; Will, a farmer of Clinton township, this county; Mrs. Mary Ogren, of this township; Mrs. Emmie Lentz, of Clinton Valley township; John E., who lives in Clinton township; Mrs. Lizzie Blass, of Boyer Valley township, and Fred and Caroline, who are still with their parents.

The Democratic party has claimed Mr. Bettin's vote from the time that he cast his first ballot, and he has never seen any reason why he should vote for the principles of any other party. The members of his family are all loyal adherents of the Reformed German church, and give to it their zealous support. Mr. Bettin is a man who contributes his success solely to the fact that he has worked early and late and treated his neighbors as he would have them treat him. In other words, he has applied the Golden Rule to his life and, as a result, has earned the warm commendations of his friends and neighbors.

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### CHRISTOPHER M. HOPKINS, M. D.

In delving into the past history of Sac county, it is found that in the building-up period of the county's growth there were a few talented professional men who devoted the better part of their lives in behalf of their fellow men. The pioneer physicians, for instance, were men of hardihood who braved the terrible storms and cold of the severe winters to alleviate the sufferings of the settlers and unselfishly gave of the best that they were able in healing the sick and relieving the suffering. Their careers in the main were exemplary, for while there were not many educated medical men who ministered to the sick and ill during this earlier period, these physicians were men of energy and wide experience who were able to take advantage of the opportunities presented for the exercise of business talents and who had the good fortune to amass a competence aside from the pecuniary reward for the practice of their profession, which, very often, was of small consequence in comparison with the labor and hardships involved in practicing in a new country.

Dr. Christopher M. Hopkins, deceased, was a notable representative of this class of pioneer physicians, and his record as a citizen and physician of eminence and more than ordinary attainments is thrice worthy of representation in this volume, dedicated to the pioneers long since departed and about whom hangs a halo of honor and glory for the noble tasks which they accomplished singly and in concert for the redemption of a wilderness.

Doctor Hopkins was born in the year 1853 on a farm in DeKalb county, Illinois. He was the son of Thomas M. and Julia A. Hopkins, the former a native of New York and the latter a native of Missouri. The parents were early pioneer settlers in De Kalb county.

Christopher M. Hopkins was educated in the common schools of his

native county, attended the nearby high school and entered the Chicago Medical College, it being early decided by himself and his ambitious parents that he should become a physician. During his school days it developed that he was an apt and diligent scholar, who imbibed learning easily, so it was natural that his career should thus be decided for him. Later developments proved the wisdom of his choice in seeking to become a member of the oldest and noblest of all professions. After his graduation from the Chicago Medical College, he first essayed the practice of his calling in the town of Lake City, Iowa, whither he came in the year 1876. One year later, in 1877, he came to the new town of Wall Lake and here made his permanent home. The town was then in the infancy of its growth and of necessity the young doctor had an extensive country practice among the farmers. He was the earliest pioneer doctor of the southern portion of Sac county and the very first physician to locate in Wall Lake. At that time there were but very few houses in the embryo city, but it had great expectations for growth inasmuch as the railroad had just entered the town site.

Doctor Hopkins practiced medicine here continuously until the year 1890, when he removed with his family to Omaha. He resided in the metropolis for three years only and then returned to Wall Lake. For some time his eyesight had been failing him and medical treatment received in Omaha had failed to prevent the gradual failure of his powers of vision. Consequently, on his return to Wall Lake he decided to abandon his practice and thereupon engaged in the implement and machinery business. In this vocation he achieved a considerable degree of marked success. It is not often that a professional man, who has spent the best years of his life in the practice of his profession, can, on the attainment of middle life, abandon his calling and enter the realms of business and achieve success, but Doctor Hopkins was one of those individuals who were endowed with unusual talents which enabled him to succeed in spite of misfortune. He likewise turned his attention to land investment. Like other wise men in his time, he foresaw the inevitable rise in land values and invested heavily in lands, which are still held by Mrs. Hopkins and which have steadily increased in value as the years have passed. He left an estate of over six hundred acres of good land, the greater part of which is now owned by his widow. The demise of Christopher M. Hopkins occurred on June 11 of 1901.

Doctor Hopkins' wedded life began June 20, 1877, when he espoused for his life helpmeet Viola Reynolds, who survives him. Mrs. Hopkins was born June 6, 1860, at Lake City, Calhoun county, Iowa. She is the daughter of James and Olive (Hutchinson) Reynolds, natives of Cass county, Michi-

gan, and who were early settlers in Calhoun county. James Reynolds was a soldier in the great Rebellion and gave his life in defense of the Union. He enlisted in 1861 as a soldier in the Thirty-Sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment and died at Bird's Point, Missouri, in 1862. Doctor Hopkins was the father of three children, as follows: Alice K., a graduate of the De Kalb State Normal School and who resides with her mother; Roscoe C., who was educated in the Iowa State University and resides at home; Julia, who died in February, 1893, at the age of seven years.

Mrs. Hopkins, with her son and daughter, resides in the beautiful home erected by her husband during his latter years in Wall Lake and carefully looks after the interests left in her charge. Her home is the abode of refinement and culture and she is active in church work and social affairs and is loved and respected by her friends and neighbors, as was her talented and lamented husband, whose memory is revered by those who knew him in life.

Doctor Hopkins was a Republican in politics; he served two terms as coroner of his county, and was a member of the Missouri Valley Medical Association and the Iowa State Medical Association. He was affiliated with the Presbyterian church and assisted in the building and organization of the Presbyterian church at Wall Lake, to which he was a liberal donator. He was a Mason, having taken many degrees, including that of the Knights Templar commandery at Sac City.

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#### CHARLES W. IRWIN.

The life story of every successful man contains a lesson which in itself is an inspiration. While each man, in all probability, works out his destiny along a different line than that followed by others, the summing up of the aggregate indicates that energy, good judgment, native ability and ambition are the principal requisites for achievement. This is taken for granted by the philosophic student and the biographer and is the conclusion which has been reached by a study of the life records of many men of consequence. However, while there may be a similarity in the successes and methods employed by individuals in general, while attaining the goal as they are engaged in the same vocation, each individual chronicle brings out a specific lesson which better explains the character of the man and proves that he is endowed with a distinctive ability somewhat different from the others. In Charles W. Irwin, agriculturist and banker, recently of Clinton township,

but now a resident of Sac City, we find embodied the highest essentials of citizenship and progressive ability. The life story of Mr. Irwin is an interesting one and is a presentation of what can be accomplished by the individual who steadily sets his mind to the attainment of a certain object and accomplishes results which are gratifying to his own ambition and which in the doing have likewise benefited his fellow men.

Charles W. Irwin was born April 22, 1858, on a farm in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. He is the son of William H. and Mary (Waugh) Irwin, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a native of Ireland. In the year 1867 the Irwin family removed from the old home in Pennsylvania and located in Clinton county, Iowa. The children are as follows: George A., deceased; L. E. Irwin, a resident of Sac City; Charles W.; Waller D., a farmer in Wall Lake township; Mrs. Letta M. Vaughn, of Sioux City; William H., of Clinton township; James T., a farmer in Boyer Valley township; A. J., a resident of Odebolt; Mrs. Eva Jane Davenport, of Richland township.

L. E. Irwin was the first member of the family to come to Sac county, locating here in 1878; C. W. followed two years later; then came the other members of the family. It was only natural that the parents should dispose of their holdings in Clinton county and eventually come to Sac county for their final resting place, so as to be near their children and grandchildren. In 1895 they came here and made their residence in Odebolt, where William H., Sr., died on December 21, 1911. The mother still holds her home in Odebolt, but resides with her daughter in Sioux City the greater part of the time.

Charles W., while the son of a pioneer settler of Clinton county, is likewise a pioneer himself in Sac county. In March of 1880 he came to Clinton township and purchased eighty acres of unbroken prairie land at five dollars an acre. He and his brother L. E. farmed their lands together for a period of ten years, bringing it up to a good state of cultivation and gradually adding to their holdings until at the time of the dissolution of their partnership in 1890 each received two hundred acres as his share of the general holdings. Each brother has alike prospered and both are large landed estate holders at the present time.

At the present time Mr. Irwin has over eight hundred acres of the best land in Sac county. There are two hundred and forty acres in his home farm. The total acreage comprises five hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township and two hundred and forty acres in Boyer Valley township. There are four sets of good farm buildings on his land. For a good many years

Mr. Irwin has been a large stockman, rarely selling the products of his farms, but preferring to feed the grain and hay into live stock production and shipping his cattle and hogs to the markets by the carload. This plan of farming is conceded to be the surest way of insuring the fertility of the soil, and is in many respect the most profitable in the end. Mr. Irwin makes a practice of buying feeders and stockers and fattening them for market. He disposes of four car loads of cattle from his home farm each year. His total production of cattle for any one year will exceed eight carloads, while the total production of hogs will reach four carloads.

Mr. Irwin has been connected with the State Bank of Lake View since its organization and is at present a director of the bank; he has also been connected with the Early and Cushing banks. He has always taken an active and interested part in the Sac County Fair Association, having served as a director since 1911, and has been superintendent of the poultry department of the annual county fair for some time. Mr. Irwin has the distinction of being one of the pioneer promoters in the establishment of the first mutual telephone line systems in Sac county. In 1890 he and twenty other citizens organized themselves into the first independent mutual telephone company in Sac county and since that time the mutual companies have multiplied until the county is practically gridironed with telephone systems.

In October, 1882, Charles W. Irwin was wedded to Sarah C. Crozer, who was born on May 6, 1858, the daughter of Reason Crozer, an early settler of Wall Lake township, whose wife was Hannah Hawley. Reason Crozer was a native of Columbiana county, Ohio, the son of Thomas and Sarah Crozer. Reason Crozer was born August 22, 1830, and died August 25, 1896. The marriage of Mrs. Irwin's parents occurred in Cedar county, Iowa, September 9, 1854. Hannah Hawley Crozer was born August 20, 1835, the daughter of Caleb and Catharine Hawley, of Stark county, Ohio, and came to Cedar county, Iowa, in 1851 with her parents. The Crozer family came to Sac county and settled in Wall Lake township in 1879. The children of this pioneer family were as follows: James Emmet, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Catharine Irwin; Orison E., a resident of Marengo, Illinois; Louis, of Salem, Oregon; Charles, of Minnesota; Thomas, a citizen of California; Edna, deceased; Albert, in Pawnee Station, Kansas; Wilfred, at Newberg, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have reared five sons and a daughter, as follows: Mrs. Edna May Davis, residing on a farm in Boyer Valley township; Jesse

Leroy, a farmer in Clinton township; George R., Louis E., Frank D. and Orla E., residents of Clinton township.

Politically, Mr. Irwin is a Progressive Republican, who feels that the highest principles of government can best be brought about by placing the best and ablest men in office and the enactment of wise progressive legislation. His influence is always found on the right side of all movements having a tendency to bring about the betterment of wrong conditions. He is a Mason of high degree, being a member of the Lake View Lodge, and the chapter and commandery at Sac City, as well as Za-Ga-Zig Temple of Mystic Shriners at Des Moines. He is versatile, well read and broad minded, and his children are a credit to themselves and their parents and are becoming valued and stable members of the community through the wise moral guidance and example given them by their father and mother. Mr. Irwin is widely and favorably known throughout Sac county for his liberality and progressiveness and his energetic interest in movements having a pronounced intent of bettering and making more comfortable the lives of his fellow citizens in this prosperous county. Probably no citizen of the county has a wider circle of good and fast friends or has a higher standing than he of whom this chronicle is written.

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#### HON. ASA B. SMITH.

Time softens and mellows a truly noble character, and as the fleeting years speed onward fond memories of the halcyon days of long ago cluster around the hearth and the heart expands with feelings of all kindliness and loving thoughts of friends and children whose pattering footsteps have been replaced in turn by the children of the second generation. Around the home of the aged Union veteran there is a glorious reminiscent feeling of the long-ago days, when he was a stalwart and brave soldier. Retrospection brings to mind the thunder of the cannon, the screaming of the war eagle, the rattle of musketry, and strains of martial music, and the waving of the bright and beautiful battle flags in whose defense thousands of brave Americans fought and died. This is the glorious side and the one with which the younger generation has gained familiarity through the perusal of the pages of history. There is another, which the veteran can tell if he will, which will describe the shrieks of the wounded, the groans of the dead and the dying, the weary, forced marches, the gallant charges in the face of



a flying hail of bullets, the terrible exposure and the deaths from disease, the wails and sufferings of widows and orphans and all the terrible aftermath of war in all its desolation. Saddest of all, is the fact that but few veterans in comparison with the vast army which passed in the Great Review at the close of the Rebellion in 1865 are remaining. One by one they are traveling onward to face Him who will judge them finally as to their deeds on earth and assign them a final resting place. Memories cluster around the home of Asa B. Smith, Union veteran and substantial pioneer settler in Clinton township, Sac county—memories which are pleasant and which recall the deeds done in a long and useful life, part of which was spent in defense of his country. Memory recalls that for over thirty-five years he has resided in Sac county, and served the people faithfully for a few years during that period in the halls of the state legislative body.

Asa B. Smith was born January 27, 1841, in Morgan county, Ohio, and is the son of William and Sarah (Beal) Smith, natives of Belmont county, Ohio. The mother of Asa B. Smith died in 1848, leaving a family of six children, as follows: John A., a resident of Dewitt, Iowa; Mary, who died at the age of eighteen years; Asa B.; Mrs. Sarah E. Mostiller, of Correctionville, Iowa; Mrs. Edith Thorne, of Dewitt, Iowa; William, of DeWitt, Iowa. William Smith was married, after the death of his first wife, to Mary J. Hill, who bore him seven children, as follows: Robert M., a resident of Dewitt, Iowa; Thomas, of Laharp, Kansas; Mrs. Nettie Seifert, of Page county, Iowa; Rebecca, deceased in Dewitt, Iowa; James, of Sioux City, Iowa; Frederick, who died in infancy; Charles, who died at the age of seventeen in Dewitt, Iowa.

In the year 1863 William Smith removed with his family to Clinton county, Iowa. During his later years he made his residence in the town of Dewitt and there died July 14, 1899.

Asa B. Smith enlisted August 8, 1862, at McConnellsville, Ohio, in Company C, Ninety-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, under the command of Captain Scott and later of Capt. W. P. Gilly. He served throughout the war and until June 10, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge from the service and was mustered out. He participated in the following battles: Perryville, Kentucky; Stone River, Tennessee; Missionary Ridge; Rocky Face Mountain, Georgia; Dalton, Georgia; Resaca, Adairsville and Dallas, Georgia; New Hope Church, Georgia; Kenesaw Mountain, first and second assaults; siege of Atlanta; Lovejoy Station, Georgia; Spring Hill, Tennessee; Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, besides a number of minor engagements. He was wounded through the left temple at the battle

of Missionary Ridge and was confined to the hospital for three months. Altogether, his was a most enviable soldier's record.

Asa B. Smith came to Clinton county and rejoined his parents after the close of the war and there resided until 1878, when he came to Sac county. He purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 33, 32 and 28 in Clinton township at a cost of five dollars and fifty cents an acre. There were no improvements on this land, which was unbroken prairie. During his first season he erected a small house eighteen by twenty-eight feet in dimension and twelve feet in height. He intended this building for a granary until he could erect a better home, which he eventually succeeded in doing. This estimable gentleman has so prospered that he was enabled to give outright a farm of eighty acres to each of his two sons and a daughter. This has enabled him to be blessed with his children and grandchildren near him all the time and enjoy their companionship.

Mr. Smith was married in 1866 to Nancy E. Mummey, who was born in Morgan county, Ohio, in 1834, a daughter of Joshua and Catharine Mummey. Joshua Mummey died in Ohio and the mother and daughter came overland to Clinton county, Iowa. The aged mother died at the home of her daughter in 1894, at the extreme age of ninety-nine years, eight months and twenty-two days. Joshua Mummey was a soldier in the War of 1812. It is also well to record here that John Clancey, the great-grandfather of Asa B. Smith and one of his maternal ancestors, fought in the American war for independence. It is recorded in the government archives at Washington, D. C., that he enlisted in the Continental army March 23, 1777, and served until peace was finally declared. He enlisted at Logtown, in the state of Maryland and served under Capt. Levine Winder and Capt. John Stone. John Clancey took part in the following historic engagements: Staten Island, Brandywine, battle of Germantown, battles of Stony Point and Paulus Hook. He was the father of Mrs. Beal, grandmother of Asa B. Smith.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born three children, namely: Charles Howard Smith, a farmer of Clinton township; Mrs. Mary E. Chandler, of Brooklyn, New York, the wife of Rev. Sydney Chandler, a former dean of Morningside College; Harland A., a resident of Malacca, Minnesota.

Mr. Smith has been a life-long Republican. He was elected representative from Sac county in the fall of 1899 and served one term in the State Assembly. He and his wife are stanch members of the Methodist church and are devout Christian people, who have reared their children to respect both man and God. He values highly his membership as a comrade of Goodrich Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and belongs to no other frater-

nal organizations. During his long life his home has been his lodge and club room and he has enjoyed the companionship and faithful assistance of the truly noble woman who is his wife and helpmeet. Asa B. Smith is one of the grand old men of Sac county, who will live always in the hearts and minds of those who know him best and who have become familiar with his manly qualities and his just and upright methods of conducting his business affairs. This memoir is fittingly intended as a just and deserving tribute to this soldier pioneer and it is intended as a valuable memento to be treasured by his children and descendants in the years to come and to be read and appreciated by his many lifelong friends in Sac county.

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### JACOB BUEHLER.

Among the German residents of this county of a past generation, who entered largely into the life of this county, is the late Jacob Buehler, of Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa. He is a typical example of the ambitious young sons of Germany who came to this country before the Civil War with nothing but their own hands and willing hearts for their capital, and by their own thrift and frugality became prosperous citizens of this commonwealth wherever they chose to settle.

Jacob Buehler was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, October 25, 1835, and died in Odebolt, Iowa, March 21, 1907. He was a son of Jacob and Mary Katherine Buehler, who came to America in 1855, settling in Lake county, Indiana, when Jacob was only twenty years of age. In 1866 Jacob Buehler married Eliza Einspahr, a native of Germany and the daughter of Frederick and Katherine Einspahr. Her parents came to America in the spring of 1853 and settled in Lake county, Indiana.

In 1872 Jacob Buehler and his wife left Lake county, Indiana, and, going to Iowa, located in Sac county, where they bought two hundred acres of land in Richland township, for which they paid only four dollars an acre. They prospered, as all the German settlers have, and added to their original purchase from time to time until they owned four hundred and eighty acres in this county.

Jacob Buehler and wife were the parents of eight children: John, who now lives in California, is married and is the father of two children, Lyle and an unnamed infant; Jacob, a farmer of Richland township, this county, who is married and has two children, Lillian and Orville; Mrs. Emma Sproul,

who also is a resident of California; William, a farmer of this township, who has eight children, Florence, Verne, Lucetta, Emmett, Gladys, John, Katherine and Ellen; Emil, who resides in California, married and has one son, George; Katherine, who is now living with her mother, Mrs. Eliza Buehler; Mrs. Florence Hartley, of Battle Creek, Iowa, who has one daughter, Frances Elise; Benjamin, who lives on the home place, is married and has three children, Ruth, Robert and Benjamin. Three of these sons, Benjamin, Jacob and William, are represented by biographies elsewhere in this volume.

Jacob Buehler was a Republican in his politics, but his large landed interests kept him so busy that he was not able to take an active part in public affairs. He and his wife were loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and rendered it their earnest and zealous support at all times. He was a man who tried to do his duty day by day as he saw it. During his life in this county no action of his ever alienated the confidence of his friends and neighbors. He died as he has always lived, a man who was faithful to his fellow men, to his home and to his God.

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### HENRY CLARK ROBINSON.

The lives of great men do not go out, they go on, and this statement is true of the late Henry Clark Robinson, who, for many years, occupied a prominent place in the history of Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa. He was a man whom it was a pleasure to meet, and in all the affairs of life he so conducted himself that he left behind a record which was free from blame. He came to this county with practically nothing, but he and his good wife worked faithfully until, in the course of years, they acquired a comfortable home and extensive farming interests. Such men are a blessing to the community in which they live, and with his death there passed from his county a man who never failed to do his duty as he saw it.

Henry Clark Robinson was born May 13, 1848, in Lee county, Illinois, and died on his farm in Wheeler township, Sac county, Iowa, February 18, 1912. He was the son of William Clark and Harriett Matilda (Hansen) Robinson, natives of Pennsylvania and Maine, respectively. William C. Robinson and wife were the parents of the following children: George W. and Georgiana, twins, deceased; Mrs. Sophia Lehman, of Valesca, Iowa, and Henry Clark, whose history forms the theme of this narrative.



HENRY C. ROBINSON AND FAMILY



Henry Clark Robinson received his education in the schools of his home county, and lived with his parents until his marriage, which event occurred on New Year's day, 1874, when he was united to Jeannette Spiller, the daughter of Truman and Laura (Peaslee) Spiller, who were natives of New Hampshire, and came to Lee county, Illinois, in about 1864. The mother died in New Hampshire, and the father in Lee county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Spiller were the parents of six children: Charles, deceased; Willis, of Belvidere, Ogle county, Illinois; Arthur, deceased; Mrs. Mary Robinson, of Belmont, Iowa; Jeannette, wife of Henry C. Robinson, and Nathan, of Odebolt, Iowa.

In 1878 Henry C. Robinson and family came to Sac county, and in March of that year bought eighty acres of prairie land in Clinton township. While building their house, which was to be sixteen by fourteen feet, they lived in a hastily constructed shack which was only eight by sixteen feet. Six years later they were able to build a larger house with much better conveniences. When they came to this township, in 1878, geese and ducks were flying overhead and other game was plentiful, and Mr. Robinson often went out and killed wild game for the table. In May, 1893, Mr. Robinson bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wheeler township, at a cost of forty dollars an acre. His land had no improvements upon it at that time, but they built a house and constructed barns and other outbuildings and lived here for the next eighteen years. In 1909 Mr. Robinson sold eighty acres and in the same year bought one hundred and sixty acres in Richland township, on which Olden C., one of his sons, is now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Robinson were the parents of five children: Mrs. Harriet Matilda Perry, of Wheeler township, this county, who has three children, Henry George, Elden Wilbur and Evelyn Hope; Olden C., a farmer of Richland township, now living on the old homestead farm; Roscoe, a successful farmer of Spencer, Iowa, who is married and has four children, Roscoe Wayne, Esther Florence, Mary Helen and Henry Clark; Elmer, a garage man at Spencer, Iowa; and Mary Ellen, the wife of James Preston Blount, of Wheeler township, this county, has one child, Bessie Jeannette.

Mr. Robinson was a Republican in politics, but never felt inclined to participate in political affairs. However, he was a well-informed man upon the current issues of the day and was able to discuss them intelligently. He and his wife were loyal attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church and subscribed to the support of that denomination. His death removed from Sac county one of her substantial and highly esteemed citizens, and the many kind



words which were spoken of him at that time attested to the abiding place which he had in the hearts and affections of those who knew him. The death of such a man is a great loss, not only to his immediate family, but to his neighbors with whom he had lived and labored for so many years. He left to his family the rich memory of an unstained name and to his county he left a record of a long and well spent life.

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### THOMAS QUIRK.

There are as many as a score of foreign countries who have contributed to the present citizenship of Sac county, Iowa, but it is probable that there are only a few men in the county who were born on the isle of Man, which is located off the western coast of England. From this little isle came a young man about fifty years ago who is now a prosperous retired farmer of this county, a man who has made his fortune in the fertile fields of this county.

Thomas Quirk, a retired farmer of Levey township, this county, was born in 1844, on the isle of Man, England, and was a son of Thomas and Elinor Quirk. His people were farmers and lived all of their lives in the island of their birth. In this small island Thomas Quirk received his education, which was very limited, and when twenty years of age he went across to Liverpool, England. He returned home, and remained there until his marriage, at the age of twenty-two, in Liverpool, and then sailed for New York.

Thomas Quirk was married in Liverpool, England, in 1870 to Mary Cain, also a native of the isle of Man, and immediately the young bridal couple took passage for America, landing at Halifax in March, 1870. They had very little money, but they had stout hearts and willing hands, and with these assets, they felt confident of making a home for themselves in this country. They immediately came west to Davenport, Iowa, arriving here on April 1, 1870, and soon afterward took charge of a farm in Clinton county, Iowa, on the shares. They lived on this place for six years, after which, in 1876, they bought railroad land in Sac county, Clinton township. They purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 35, for five dollars an acre, paying one-fifth down and providing for the remaining payments with time contracts. Since there were no buildings on their land they lived on an adjoining farm, which they rented for a year. Not liking the first farm

which he purchased, he bought another farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where he now lives and on which he built his home. They worked hard and were frugal in their habits, with the result that in the course of a few years they had their farms of two hundred and eighty acres all paid for. They have lived on their present farm for the past thirty-seven years, and have seen it increase in value from five dollars an acre to two hundred dollars an acre.

Mr. and Mrs. Quirk are the parents of three children: Lewis T., whose history is presented elsewhere in this volume; Mrs. Mary McWilliams, and George W., of Cook township, this county. A brother of Mr. Quirk came to Sac county in 1876, and has become a prosperous farmer in this county. Mr. Quirk is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Wall Lake, while, religiously, he and his wife are loyal and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and give to it their earnest support at all times. Owing to his splendid success, his genuine worth and genial disposition, Mr. Quirk has won many friends and has retained them because of his many good qualities. His life has been a busy one, a life filled with hard work, but he has never shrank from his duties as a citizen, his obligations to the church, his neighbors or his friends.

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#### CARL A. OLDSSEN.

Of late years farming has come to be recognized as a science and a distinct vocation in itself in contrast to the old, haphazard methods in which our fathers indulged. The progressive farmer of today takes no chances on the possible failure of his land to produce as it should and nowadays the younger generation of agriculturists are fast taking up the vocation as a science and a sure and certain means of extracting more than a livelihood from their acreage. The old methods are going fast and a newer and wiser set are gaining control of the farming areas. The science of agriculture and animal husbandry as taught in the colleges and state universities has attracted many young students, who have gone direct from the farms and returned after having studied their inherited occupation from a different angle; then applying the knowledge they have learned in connection with a practical aptitude for the work and have made wonderful successes in tilling the soil and the breeding of domestic animals.

One of the notable examples of success in farming and live stock raising

from a scientific standpoint is represented in the career of Carl A. Oldsen, of Clinton township. Mr. Oldsen is a widely known live-stock breeder. He has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, of which he is the owner, and cultivates eighty acres in addition to this. There is no better equipped farm for the purpose in Sac county. The barns and outbuildings are large and well kept. In 1912 Mr. Oldsen erected a fine, modern home with every convenience, consisting of ten rooms in all; this home occupies a commanding site and is visible for miles across the landscape.

Mr. Oldsen is a successful breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle. It is in this special vocation that his training at the State Agricultural School stands him in good stead and he has achieved a wonderful success in the few years that he has been breeding cattle for the trade and for the use of neighboring farmers in improving their herds. The farm produces forty head of pure bred Shorthorns annually. This is a profitable business for the breeder and it is a matter of note that on December 10, 1913, Mr. Oldsen held a sale at his farm which was attended by buyers from all parts of the state, resulting in the disposal of thirty-eight head of registered stock at an average price of one hundred and eighty-two dollars per head.

C. A. Oldsen was born April 20, 1881, on the farm where he now resides. He is the son of John D. Oldsen, of whom extended and favorable mention is given in this volume and who was one of the early settlers of Sac county. John D. Oldsen is a native of Germany, who came to America when eighteen years of age, locating in Clinton county, Iowa, in 1873. He bought land in Clinton township, Sac county, in 1875 and later moved his family there. He became the owner of four hundred acres of land and moved to the town of Wall Lake in 1906. He married Anna Peterson, also a native of Germany, and who bore him four children, namely: Mrs. Sophia Tadsen, of Clinton township; Carl A.; Mrs. Agnes Jensen, residing on a farm three miles west of Sac City, and Maylinda, at home with her parents.

Carl A. Oldsen received his primary education in the district schools of his native township and pursued a course in the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, completing the course in animal husbandry in 1903 after four years' study in all. His success as a farmer and stock breeder is very pronounced and is due in great part to the intimate knowledge of his work which he obtained in the state college. He is a member of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association and the Iowa Shorthorn Breeders' Association.

Mr. Oldsen was married in January, 1906, to Lulu J. Sutton, of Ode-

bolt, Iowa, a daughter of William Sutton. He is the father of one child, Paul Oldsen, born in April, 1908.

Mr. Oldsen, like many other young men of the present day in Sac county, has allied himself with the Progressive party and is an exponent of and a firm believer in progressive principles of government. He is a member of the Masonic lodge in the town of Wall Lake. He is undoubtedly one of the rising young men of Sac county, possessing intelligence and education which, combined with an innate courtesy of demeanor and bearing, makes him a man worth while and worth knowing in the community.

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### WILLIAM L. UMBARGER.

Among the younger farmers of Sac county who are forging themselves to the front as successful agriculturists is William L. Umbarger, of Richland township, who was born May 23, 1879, on the farm where he now resides, and is the son of Nathaniel Brown and Mary A. (Brown) Umbarger. Nathaniel Brown Umbarger was born January 4, 1845, in Wythesville, Wythe county, Virginia, and died October 26, 1911. He was the second son of Stephen Umbarger, who enlisted in the Union army and was captured and imprisoned at Andersonville, where he died in the spring of 1865. His son, Nathaniel B., the father of the subject of this sketch, was drafted in 1864 by the Southern recruiting officers and compelled to serve in the Confederate army. He was assigned to Company B, Thirtieth Regiment Virginia Infantry, and fought under Gen. Jubal A. Early. He was captured at the battle of Newmarket and imprisoned at Elmira, New York, where he remained until the close of the war. He then took advantage of free government transportation and came westward to Iowa to visit an uncle by the name of Kegley, and, after looking over the territory in the eastern part of Iowa, he decided to invest and accordingly purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Jones county. He then returned to Virginia and in March, 1868, married Mary Agnes Brown. He and his wife immediately came to Iowa and located at Monmouth, Jackson county, and in 1873 they moved to Sac county, where they bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Richland township, where they lived for the next thirty-two years, and became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land. In 1906 they moved to Odebolt, where Mr. Umbarger died in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Umbarger were the parents of seven children: A daughter who died in infancy;

Samuel Stephen, who died at the age of thirteen; James Francis, who lives at Ringsted, Iowa; William L., whose life history is here presented; Clara L., of Odebolt; Mrs. Florence L. Norris, who resides in Oelwein, Fayette county, this state, and Arthur G., of Moline, Illinois. Nathaniel B. Umbarger was an elder in the Presbyterian church and a great believer in the work which was accomplished by the church. Fraternally, he was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He had been a prominent man in the affairs of his township since its organization, and was one of the leading citizens at the time it was organized. He died in the hospital at Ida Grove, Ida county, on October 26, 1911. His widow is still living in Odebolt.

William L. Umbarger was educated in the district schools of his township and later graduated from the Odebolt high school. He has lived on his present farm since he was born, and now has one of the most attractive farms in the county. He was married May 23, 1906, to Mabel Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, of Oelwein, Iowa, and to this marriage have been born three children: Helen, deceased; Alice, born June 25, 1911, and James William, born March 12, 1914.

Politically, Mr. Umbarger is a Republican, but his farming interests have demanded so much of his time and attention that he has not taken an active part in political affairs. He and his wife are zealous members of the Presbyterian church and to this denomination they contribute liberally of their time and substance.

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### SEBASTIAN BUEHLER.

Although Sebastian Buehler has been called to another field of action beyond this vale of shadows, yet his memory is fresh in the minds of his many friends of Sac county, who were the recipients of his pleasant greetings and valued friendship during his life time. He was one of the large number of Germans who have come to this county and been important factors in developing the county and bringing it to its present prosperous condition. He believed in lending whatever aid he could in pushing forward the cause of civilization and at his death the county lost a man who never shirked his duty as a citizen of the commonwealth. Additional honor is due him because of the fact that he served in that long and bloody struggle which was necessary in order that the Stars and Stripes should float from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. Although he was a mere lad of sixteen when he enlisted, he served throughout the whole four years of the war, and the exposure to

which he was subjected during that struggle left him in such physical condition that he was never in good health again.

Sebastian Buchler, the son of Jacob and Mary Katherine Buehler, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 30, 1845. He came with his parents to America when he was ten years of age and settled in Lake county, Indiana. His parents were still living here in 1861 and, although he was a mere lad of sixteen, he proffered his services for the support of his adopted county and enlisted in the Twenty-fourth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry on September 28, 1861, being mustered in at Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 22, 1862, as a private in the Twenty-fourth Cavalry under the leadership of Capt. J. A. Sims. His battery was assigned to the First Brigade of the Twenty-third Corps, and was attached to the Army of the Ohio. He was taken sick near Glasgow, Kentucky, on March of the next year and was in the hospital for twenty-nine days, and was then removed to Louisville, Kentucky, and placed in Hospital No. 7 for thirty-four days, after which he was taken to Indiana and placed in the hospital and upon his recovery was transferred to the Invalid Corps and sent to Washington, D. C., for detailed duty. He served at Washington until May, 1864, when his company was transferred to Company K, Twelfth Regiment of Veteran Reserve Corps, and served with this corps until his discharge July 27, 1865.

Mr. Buehler returned to his home at the close of the war, a veteran in service, but a youth of twenty years, who had actually spent his boyhood days serving his country. Sebastian Buehler was married in Chicago on March 17, 1869, to Mary Obrecht, who was born August 8, 1845, in New York state. Her parents, Jacob and Louisa Obrecht, were natives of Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, who came to America in the early forties. In 1852 the Obrecht family moved to Lake county, Indiana, where the mother died, and in 1872 her father moved to Sac county, Iowa, where his death occurred.

In July, 1871, Sebastian Buehler and his wife arrived in Sac county, Iowa, and bought two hundred acres of land in Richland township, at four dollars an acre. Mr. Buehler's brother-in-law, O. Rudolph, accompanied him, and the two were the first settlers in Richland township. Mr. Rudolph was later caught in a blizzard in Ida county, Iowa, and some years later died in Indiana, as a result of the terrific exposure to which he had been subjected in the storm. Although Mr. Buehler was not in good health, due to his exposure during the Civil War, yet he prospered and from time to time added to his land holdings until at the time of his death he was the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of well improved land in this township, and there is now a total of four hundred acres in the estate.



Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Buehler were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living: Henry, who is a farmer of Richland township, this county, is married and has three children, Louise, Mildred and Dorothy; Mrs. Julia Kuehl, who lives in Heron Lake, Minnesota, has six children, Alfred, Alice, Leonard, Everett, Raymond and Elsa; Mrs. Emma Hix, a resident of Richland township, this county, has two sons, Warren and George; Sebastian, who is married and lives on the old home place in Richland township, is the father of two children, Mary and Fern; Mrs. Anna Hix, also a resident of Richland township, has two daughters, Marian and Louise; Louise, the youngest of the nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Buehler, is still with her mother.

Mr. Buehler was a staunch adherent of the Republican party, and served his party in an official capacity for many years, filling the office of township trustee for nine years, also serving on the school board of his township, and in these important positions he rendered faithful and efficient service to all of the citizens of the township, always taking an active interest in every measure which he thought would benefit his township and community. He was a stockholder and director of the Farmers Creamery Company of his township, an institution which has been of great benefit to the farmers of this locality. He was a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic post and took much pleasure in attending its meetings. His religious affiliations were with the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he rendered faithful and loyal service during his life. Up to the time of his death, on March 12, 1899, he took a prominent part in all enterprises which had for their object the welfare of the community and was never found wanting in those qualities which characterize the public-spirited citizen. His life was such that it reflects honor upon himself and he left a name which will be revered by his children in the years to come.

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#### AUGUST C. PETERSMEYER.

In every community are to be found individuals who, by reason of pronounced ability and forceful personality, rise superior to the majority and command the homage of their fellows; who, by revealing to the world the two resplendent virtues, perseverance in effort and directing purpose, never fail to attain positions of honor and trust and become in the full sense of the term leaders of men. Of this class is the well-known gentleman and success-







*Mrs. A. C. Petersmeyer.*



*A. C. Petersmeyer.*



ful grain merchant whose name appears above, a man who ranks among the leading citizens of Odebolt, and who for a number of years has borne an influential part in the affairs of the city and county in which he resides.

A. G. Petersmeyer, a prosperous grain merchant of Odebolt, was born November 21, 1863, in Lake county, Indiana. He is the son of Frederick and Caroline (Saak) Petersmeyer, both of whom were natives of Germany. Frederick Petersmeyer was born in about 1825 in Germany and came to America when a young man, settling in Lake county, Indiana. Here he followed the trade of a carpenter until after his marriage, when he became a farmer. In 1871 he came to Sac county and bought land. The following spring he brought his family to this county and in a few years was a farmer of means and influence in Richland township. He added to his land holdings from time to time until he had four hundred and eighty acres at the time of his death, in 1900. In 1886 he moved to Odebolt, where he spent his declining days. His wife died in 1910. Frederick Petersmeyer and wife were the parents of fourteen children: Caroline, the deceased wife of Henry Frevert; Henry W., of Los Angeles, California, who has large land interests in Canada; Mrs. Flora Walter, of Vaughn, Montana; August C., with whom this narrative deals; Fred W., of Hillsboro, South Dakota; Mrs. Sophia Seagrigh, of Odebolt; Mrs. Emma Cook, of Pipestone, Minnesota; Doctor William, of Ashton, Illinois; Edward, of Oklahoma City; Mrs. Lydia Roland, whose husband is employed as roadmaster for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad; Lillian, who is employed in Davidson's department store in Sioux City; Clare, of Odebolt; Alvin, who died in 1890, and one child, which died in infancy.

A. C. Petersmeyer received his education in Lake county, Indiana, and Sac county, Iowa. He also received a commercial course at the German-English College at Galena, Illinois. He remained with his father on the farm until 1889, when he came to Odebolt and engaged in the grain business. He has been remarkably successful in this line of work. He and his brother, H. W. Petersmeyer, established the business in 1890, and since 1902 A. C. has had the entire ownership of the business. The present capacity of the storage plant is seventy thousand bushels, and in 1910 an addition was built to increase this capacity. The annual shipment of grain includes from forty to seventy-five car loads of corn, seventy-five to a hundred car loads of popcorn and forty to seventy-five car loads of oats. Mr. Petersmeyer also maintains a seed distributing house. The popcorn is the great crop, and he employs three men to handle this part of his business. His plant now represents an investment of over twenty-five thousand dollars. While engaged primarily in the

grain business, he also buys live stock and ships annually from fifty to seventy-five car loads of hogs.

Mr. Petersmeyer was married June 11, 1896, to Wilhelmina Meyer, a native of Missouri, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer. Henry Meyer was born in Germany and came to America when a young man and located in Missouri. In 1894 he came to Odebolt, where he is now residing.

Politically, Mr. Petersmeyer is a Republican, but owing to his heavy interests, he has never had the time to indulge in the game of politics. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and give to it freely of their means. Mr. Petersmeyer's record has been one replete with duty well done. He has been an advocate of wholesome living and a believer in clean politics, and has always stood for the highest and best interests of his community.

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### L. H. McCREA.

One of the prosperous farmers of Wall Lake township, who has built up a comfortable home for himself and risen to a position of affluence in the county, is L. H. McCrea, who was born September 12, 1868, in Michigan and is the son of Leander A. and Anna (Berm) McCrea. Leander McCrea was born in 1835 in New York of Scotch-Irish parentage. In 1878 Leander McCrea and his family moved from Michigan to Iowa and settled in Sac county on a farm near Carnarvon, and the town of Carnarvon is now built on part of the land which Mr. McCrea purchased in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Leander McCrea are now living in Butler, Missouri, where they moved in 1898. They were the parents of eight sons and one daughter: Frank, of Arthur, Iowa; Perry, of Terry, Montana; William; Joseph, of Ashton, Illinois; L. H., whose history is here recorded; Alfred, of Westbrook, Illinois; Roy, of Auburn, Sac county; Jay, of Baxter Springs, Kansas; Leander, of Rockerville, South Dakota; Mrs. Nellie Feeley, of Missouri.

L. H. McCrea was educated in the public schools of Michigan and Sac county, Iowa. He finished his education at the schools of Carnarvon in Wall Lake township. He stayed at home until he was twenty years of age and then began working out by the month. Upon his marriage in 1890 he rented land and continued to rent until he purchased his present farm of one hundred ninety-one and a half acres in 1911. His farm cost eighty-seven and a half dollars an acre, and is one of the best productive farms in the township. Practically all of the farm is under cultivation. In 1913 he raised, in addi-

tion to his corn and other crops, forty head of cattle, seventy-seven head of hogs and thirteen head of horses. He is making a pronounced success of his stock raising, and finds the larger portion of his annual profits lying in that direction.

Mr. McCrea was married in 1890 to Minnie Morton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Morton, of Sac City. To this marriage have been born fourteen children, ten of whom are now living: Ruby, Barbara, Gordon, Merl, Louis, Vivian, Sherman, Marjory, Henrietta and Burl. Ruby is clerking in the store at Lake View, Sac county, while Barbara is a public school teacher. All of the remaining children are still with their parents.

Mr. McCrea was, up until 1912, a Republican, and in the division which came about in the Republican party at that time he cast his influence in favor of the Progressive party. He is now, like thousands of other voters, somewhat undecided as to which party he will support, although he is progressive in his views. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and contribute of their substance to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Yeomen. Mr. McCrea is one of the sterling and substantial citizens of his township and a man with genial disposition and optimistic way of viewing life, which has endeared him to a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout his community.

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### DAVID CORRELL.

This biographical appendix to the history of Sac county is for the express purpose of preserving the records of the men worth while in this county, and especially the records of those citizens who have done their share in the developing of the county and assisted in a substantial way in having their adopted county attain the enviable prestige which it holds among the ninety and nine divisions of the great state of Iowa. It is meet, therefore, that we write this brief review concerning David Correll, a citizen of the city of Odebolt and one of its valued residents.

David Correll was born April 6, 1853, near the city of Wooster, Wayne county, Ohio, the son of Jacob and Catharine (Floyd) Correll, natives of Pennsylvania. Jacob was born on January 17, 1815, and departed this life June 16, 1892. His wife Catharine was born August 11, 1814, and died April 15, 1903. Jacob migrated with his parents to Ohio when a youth and became orphaned at a very early age. He learned the trade of tailor and fol-



lowed it as a merchant tailor in Wooster, Ohio. After working at his trade for some years he purchased a farm near Wooster and moved thereon and from that time on he followed the vocation of agriculturist. In 1854 he removed to Clinton county, Iowa, and purchased a farm. He was a pioneer settler of this county, which has furnished a large number of the best families in Sac county. He ended his days on his Clinton county farm and became very prosperous previous to his demise, leaving his family well provided for and bequeathing them a heritage of right living and a high standard of morals.

Jacob Correll was the father of eight children, as follows: Abram died in Maquoketa, Iowa, December 20, 1909; Daniel, a resident of Marion, Iowa; Samuel, of Parsons, Kansas; Levi, also a citizen of Parsons, Kansas; Maria, a resident of Maquoketa, Iowa; Amanda, who died March 20, 1873; Mrs. Catharine O'Brien, deceased June 3, 1882; David.

David Correll was reared and educated in Clinton county and was united in marriage on September 2, 1880, with Laura Isabel Davenport, who was born April 13, 1855, in Winamac, Indiana. She was the daughter of Charles L. and Mary Davenport. She departed from the scene of her earthly career July 15, 1913. She was a good and faithful wife and a kind and loving mother to her children. Her demise was deeply mourned by the members of her family and many friends and acquaintances. She had been a member of the Methodist church from the time she was sixteen years of age and was a devout and true Christian woman. She was very active in the church work and took a leading part in the women's home department, the Foreign Missionary Society and the Ladies' Aid Society and was a member of the Ingleside Club, a literary organization. She was the mother of the following children: Esther, wife of Fred Gilbert, of Odebolt; Zula, wife of Percy Brown, residing in Eugene, Oregon.

After the marriage of David and Laura Isabel Correll in the town of Elwood, Iowa, they came direct to Sac county, arriving at Odebolt. They located on a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Clinton township which cost twenty dollars an acre, part of which was already broken for cultivation. The father of Mrs. Correll had previously invested in an entire section of land and had divided it among his four children. David bought an additional one hundred and sixty acres and he and his wife held the land in common, finally increasing their holdings until they owned four hundred acres. In addition to this excellent holding of Sac county land, Mr. Correll was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres in the Dakotas. They lived on the farm until February, 1908, when they removed to Odebolt

and erected a fine two-room residence which is one of the best in the city. located on beautiful Park avenue in the west part of the city.

Mr. Correll is a Republican politically; he is a stanch member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is affiliated with the camp of Modern Woodmen. He is well read, sociable and is universally recognized as a man among men, one who has lived an honest, industrious and upright life. His character is above reproach and he is highly esteemed by all who know him.

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### EMETT STARNER.

Every active man of affairs looks forward in anticipation of the time when he can retire to a comfortable home and live in comfort for the remainder of his days, unmarred or undisturbed by thoughts of need which intrude themselves into the horizon of the improvident or struggling ones whose career is yet in the making. This is a most worthy ambition and one which should imbue every individual head of a family in order that he might adequately perform and complete his mission on earth. Sometimes we find that retirement is not conducive to contentment if the successful person has not cultivated sufficiently the educational, mental and aesthetic side of life as he should. Life hangs heavily upon the man who is without diversion or aim and is left without purpose or ability to properly exercise his faculties after the need of bodily and mental exertion to further enhance his fortunes has passed. Happy indeed is the man who possesses a hobby, or several of them, in fact, for he can spend hours in pleasurable recreation and can continue to take a real and genuine interest in things worth while during his days of repose. He whose name forms the caption of this review, while retired from active mercantile pursuits, principally on account of there being no necessity for him to longer continue in business from a financial standpoint, takes a keen interest in affairs and has much to occupy his mind and attention, because of worthy and beneficial proclivities engendered by the possession of a well trained mind and well developed faculties along original lines. Emmett Starner, retired merchant and pioneer of the city of Odebolt, is perhaps better versed in the happenings in his neighborhood during his long residence in Sac county than any living person. For years he has kept a careful diary of daily occurrences and has kept an accurate weather report, principally for his own diversion, but which is now valuable.

Emmett Starner was born January 8, 1852, in Adams county, Pennsyl-

vania, the son of Isaac and Sophia (Worley) Starner, both native born to that state. They resided in Pennsylvania until the year 1894 and then removed to Odebolt so as to be in close proximity to their children when old age came creeping on them. The father died in Odebolt and the aged mother still resides here with her son and a daughter, Mrs. William Ream.

Mr. Starner received his early training on a farm in his native state and managed to secure a good education in the schools of his neighborhood, this education having since been augmented and broadened by much private reading. In 1876 he left home and located in Illinois and spent four months in the town of Moweaqua. He then went to Ames, Iowa, and located in the farming section of Story county, there working at farm labor for nearly two years.

On March 14, 1878, Mr. Starner arrived in Odebolt, or rather on the site of the town which had just been projected and planned. He was given employment on the Wheeler ranch and remained in Mr. Wheeler's employ for a period of fourteen years, four years of which time he was assistant superintendent and during the last six years of his service he was the efficient and valued superintendent. When one considers that this famous ranch comprised over seven thousand acres, and even now, when it is owned by the Adams family and consists of ten sections of land or a total of sixty-four hundred acres, the responsibility engendered and assumed by the head of such an immense plant is significant. He measured fully up to the requirements of his position, however, and was such a favorite with his employer and had given evidence of such pronounced executive ability that Mr. Wheeler tried to induce him to take entire charge of his immense ranch in southern Texas which he later bought after disposing of his Sac county holdings.

In 1893 Mr. Starner embarked in the furniture and undertaking business in Odebolt and was very successful, the exercise of the same talents which had given him success as a farm superintendent contributing to his business success. He disposed of his furniture and undertaking establishment in September, 1912, and retired from active pursuits, having no other cares at the present time but looking after his property interests, which are considerable. He is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in North Dakota and has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota. He also owns three building lots and residence properties in the city and has recently erected a fine, modern bungalow with every comfort and convenience installed.

Mr. Starner's wedded life began on February 26, 1885, when he

espoused in holy wedlock Helen C. Sprague, a daughter of Oliver C. Sprague, a native of New York and who settled in Sac county in the year 1879. Oliver Sprague owned a farm in Wheeler township and made his home in Odebolt, residing with Mr. Starner until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Starner have one son, Arthur V., now in Los Angeles, California.

Politically, Emmet Starner has been allied with the Republican party. By virtue of his birth and the Reformed church being the faith of his forbears, he was brought up in the Reformed faith. He is an attendant and supporter of the Methodist denomination, of which Mrs. Starner is an active member. He is a member of no fraternal societies and considers his home as his club and lodge room for all purposes of recreation.

He of whom this brief resume is recorded is one of Odebolt's substantial and enterprising citizens. He has seen the city grow from its very inception and has kept a record of events and happenings in the town and vicinity since 1876. He is genial, hospitable, well read and an excellent and interesting conversationalist who is well versed on many topics of interest. His collection of antiques, gathered in the course of a lifetime, is very valuable, among them being a magnificent great hall clock which was brought from England in 1795 and is very old, but in fine condition. His library is very extensive and is adapted to a home of culture and refinement such as he and his wife maintain.

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### WILLIAM AUGUST STANZEL.

One of the retired farmers of Odebolt, Iowa, who has acquired a fine farm in this county, is William A. Stanzel, the proprietor of two hundred and eighty acres of land in Richland township, in this county. Mr. Stanzel was born November 27, 1872, in Clinton county, this state, and is the son of William A. and Laurinda R. Stanzel, pioneers in Sac county. The reader is referred to the history of William A. and L. R. Stanzel, elsewhere in this volume, for further details concerning the Stanzel ancestry.

William A. Stanzel was four years of age when his parents came from Clinton county to Sac county. He was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools of his township, and has lived within this county since March, 1876. When he was twenty-one years of age his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land, and on this farm he lived until 1903, at which time he bought a farm in Jackson township, on which he lived five years, when he sold it, and moved to his farm in Richland town-

ship, and in January, 1913, moved to Odebolt, where he is now living. He is now the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of excellent land in section 33 in Richland township, his farm lying about one mile west of Odebolt. He is not now actively operating his farm, yet he is superintending it and has the satisfaction of seeing it yield handsome returns each year.

Mr. Stanzel was married March 10, 1897, to Fannie S. Fulcher, of Sac county, who was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fulcher. Thomas Fulcher and Eliza Reed Fulcher were natives of England and emigrated to Illinois and to Sac county, Iowa, in 1894, settling on a farm in Clinton township. Thomas died March 23, 1904. He was the father of seven children, six living: Mrs. George C. Stanzel; Mrs. Orrie Irwin; Mrs. Burton Huftalin, of Illinois; David Fulcher, of Michigan; Carl Fulcher, on the home farm; one deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Stanzel have been born three children, Candace, Clara and Mary.

Politically, Mr. Stanzel is a Republican, but has never been prominently identified in the councils of his party. He and his family are attendants of the Presbyterian church and contribute of their substance to its support. Mr. Stanzel is well known throughout this county, and in the circles in which he mingles he is held in the highest regard because of his upright life and successful career.

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### JOHN DINGES.

The prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to a considerable extent to the honest industry, the sturdy persistence, the unswerving perseverance and wise economy which so prominently characterize the farming element of the Hawkeye state. While this population is made up of cosmopolitan elements in many localities, it is found that in many sections of the west, the German-Americans form a large and important quota of the general total and have exerted a preponderant influence in shaping and developing the resources of this rich and fertile region. No better class of intelligent, wide-awake German-American farmers are to be found in this broad land than those who have had the distinction of settling up certain portions of Sac county. A prominent and worthy representative of this diligent class of citizens is John Dinges, of Odebolt.

Mr. Dinges is one of the pioneer farmers of the southwest part of the county and is one of the prosperous and well-to-do retired citizens of the city of Odebolt. He was born February 6, 1846, in Prussia, German empire, and



MR. AND MRS. JOHN DINGES





is of High German extraction. He is the son of John and Christian (Port) Dinges, who emigrated to America in 1854, and first settled in Lee county, Illinois. They were pioneer settlers of Lee county and formed a component part of a large German settlement. The father died in Lee county in June of 1908. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters, namely: Peter, the eldest; John; Mrs. Gertrude Geiers, of Illinois; Frederick, residing in Illinois; Mrs. Caroline Henrich, Odebolt; Mrs. Mary Burkhardt, of Illinois; and Joseph, also residing in Illinois. John was reared to young manhood on the Lee county farm and there received his schooling in the district schools of the neighborhood. He tilled the soil in his home county until the year 1874, when he made a trip to Sac county and invested his savings in an entire section of land in Richland township, which cost him six dollars an acre. He made his first payment on this land and then returned to Illinois, to await the building of the projected railroad through the southern part of Sac county. In 1879 he again came to Sac county and erected his house and barn on the land. In the following year he moved his family and household goods to his new ranch and proceeded to develop his broad acres. How well he succeeded is attested by the fact that he has given each of his grown sons a farm of eighty acres and is possessed of considerable property in addition. He is the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of the best Sac county land and also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Dickinson county, Iowa. Since March, 1905, he has made his residence in Odebolt, where he has one of the finest residences in the city. Mr. Dinges specialized in cattle raising while engaged actively in agriculture and was a well-known horse breeder for many years.

Mr. Dinges is a staunch exponent of the principles of the Democratic party, and has filled the office of trustee of Richland township. He is affiliated with St. Martin's Catholic church of Odebolt.

Mr. Dinges was married January 3, 1869, in Lee county, Illinois, to Katharina Beitz, a native of Prussia, born November 22, 1845, and who came to America with her parents in the same ship which carried her future husband in 1854. The Beitz family likewise settled in the same neighborhood in Lee county and were neighbors of the Dinges family. John Dinges and his estimable and capable wife are the proud parents of eight children, and probably has a greater number of grandchildren than any living citizen of Sac county. His children are as follows: Joseph, residing on the home farm, is the father of nine children, Alfred, Edward, Romaine, Pearl, Irma, Marie, Burnet, Joseph and George; John, Jr., who resides on a farm in South

Dakota, has ten children, Gertrude, Florence, Agnes, Frank, Fern, Clarence, John, Dorothy, Edna and Ruth; Peter, who tills a portion of the old homestead, and is the father of the following children, Joseph, Helen, Theo, William, Clement, Mary, Esther, Florence, and Rena; Mrs. Margaret Kelmer, deceased May 7, 1908, was the mother of five children, Isabelle, Bernice, Hazel, Leslie and Floyd; Mrs. Julia Keeler, a resident of Odebolt, is the mother of eight children, Raymond, Hilda, Miriam, Lulu, Eva, Esther, Harold and Paul; Fred and Katharine, the youngest of the family, are at home with their parents. All the foregoing offspring have enjoyed exceptional advantages and are intelligent and well fitted for the spheres of life in which they are engaged or for which they are preparing. They are proud of their parentage, and well they may be, for a more whole-souled, genial gentleman than John Dinges is not to be found anywhere.

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#### CHARLES A. BURNQUIST.

Far-away Sweden has contributed some of the most enterprising citizens who are now living in Sac county, Iowa. The people of Sweden are known the world over for their honesty in business and good citizenship, and Sac county today boasts of no better citizens than the native sons of Sweden. Among the men who have come from that far-away land and made their home in this county, there is no one who deserves more honorable mention in this biographical volume than Charles A. Burnquist, who was born October 4, 1854, in Sweden. His parents were Peter and Betsy (Johnson) Burnquist, who came to America in 1863 and located at Andover, Henry county, Illinois, on a farm. About five years later they moved to Webster county, Iowa, where Peter Burnquist died about the year 1879. His widow is still living with her son, Charles A., in Odebolt. She was born August 1, 1825, and is now in her eighty-ninth year. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Burnquist were the parents of five children, four of whom are living: Charles A., with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Caroline Wamberg, of Marshalltown, Iowa; Mrs. Matilda Chinburg, of Sioux City, Iowa, and John, a farmer of Ida county.

Charles A. Burnquist received part of his education in Sweden before coming to this country and later attended school a short time in Webster county, Iowa. He moved from that county to Marshall county in 1878, settling on a farm. Later he operated a mercantile establishment at Dillon,

Iowa, for three years. In 1881 he came to Odebolt and purchased a merchandise store which he conducted for the next twelve years. He then sold out and became interested in the real estate business, buying and selling land throughout this section of the state. He bought an entire section of land in Battle and Logan townships in Ida county and has four hundred and eighty acres in Cook township, this county, now owning over one thousand acres. Mr. Burnquist has a handsome home on Lincoln avenue in Odebolt and for several years has not been actively engaged in business.

Mr. Burnquist was married November 25, 1886, in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Jessie Johnson, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Johnson. Her parents were natives of Sweden and came to America in 1879. They first settled in Chicago, but two years later moved to Wall Lake, where they both died. Mr. and Mrs. Burnquist have four children: Edward, a merchant of Grinnell, Iowa; Jessie, a student in Ames College; Ellinor, a student in Ames College, and Fern, who is in the high school at Odebolt.

Mr. Burnquist is a Republican in politics and has served his party as city alderman of Odebolt for six years. He and his family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and give liberally of their means to its support. Mr. Burnquist possesses a pleasing personality and is easily approached; strong and forceful in his relations with his fellow men, he not only makes his presence felt, but has also gained the good will and confidence of both his associates and the general public. He has always maintained his reputation among men for integrity and high character and has never lost that dignity which is the birthright of the true gentleman.

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### JOHN H. WAGNER.

One of the men who, for the past thirty years, has been prominently identified with the business life of Odebolt and Sac county is J. H. Wagner, who is now living at Marshall, the county seat of Lyons county, Minnesota. Mr. Wagner has been identified with the business interests and agricultural interests of Sac county since 1881, and in that time has built up a reputation as a man of honesty and uprightness in all of his financial transactions. This county lost a most excellent citizen when his business interests called him to Minnesota.

John H. Wagner was born September 15, 1855, in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of John S. and Mary (Haag) Wagner, both of whom

were natives of Pennsylvania and spent all of their lives in that state. John S. Wagner and wife had a family of eight children, five of whom are living: J. H., with whom this narrative deals, Frank, James, Jacob and Isabella. The deceased children are Elias, Benjamin and Mary.

J. H. Wagner received a good, practical education in the schools of his home county in Pennsylvania, and in 1881 came to Toledo, Ohio. A few months later he came west to Sac county, Iowa, and settled in Odebolt, arriving here in January. He took employment in a retail meat market as a meat cutter and continued in the meat business until 1897, at which time he engaged in the business with P. O. Edwards, and for the next fourteen years they operated a retail meat market in Odebolt. However, this has only been one of Mr. Wagner's interests. He has always been engaged in the buying and selling of farm lands since coming to this county, and he now owns two hundred and seventy-eight acres in Lyons county, Minnesota, which is located one-half mile from Marshall, the county seat of that county. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota. Until recently Mr. Wagner also owned one hundred and sixty acres in Wheeler township, this county, but recently sold this tract. He is also the owner of a handsome residence on Park avenue in Odebolt.

Mr. Wagner was married February 28, 1884, to Rose Rorabaugh, a native of Jasper county, Iowa, the daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Weaver) Rorabaugh. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and migrated to Jasper county, this state, about 1863. In 1880 Mrs. Wagner's parents left Jasper county and located on a farm in Cook township, this county. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Rorabaugh, Rebecca, Agnes, Rose, Emery, Phoebe, Mary, and Harry, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner are the parents of seven children: Frank Earl, of Lytton, Iowa; Edith Pearl, a teacher of Clarion, Iowa; Mary Alice, also a teacher; Edna Harriett; Iva Lillian; Florence Marian and Bessie Maude. The three youngest daughters are still in school.

Politically, Mr. Wagner has been a life-long Republican, and has been prominently identified with his party in this county. For six years he served as a member of the city council of Odebolt, and while in that position he rendered faithful and efficient service to the city. Mr. Wagner was reared to the Lutheran belief, while his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, Mr. Wagner is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he and his wife are both affiliated with the Daughters of Rebekah. Mr. Wagner and his family will be missed from Odebolt, where they have a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who

admire them for their many good qualities. Their hospitable home was always open and they entertained their many friends with that kindness which marks people of culture and refinement.

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### JAMES L. BRUCE.

Among the enterprising business men of Odebolt, who are assisting in the development of the industrial and commercial life of this town and community is J. L. Bruce, of the firm of Reuber & Bruce, dealers in grains and seeds. This firm, which is one of the largest of its kind in this section of the state, is of immense benefit to the farmers of Sac county, and it annually distributes several thousand dollars to the farmers of the county.

James L. Bruce was born May 10, 1873, in Delaware county, Iowa, and is the son of J. S. and Nettie O. (Younie) Bruce. J. S. Bruce was born in 1851 in Scotland and came to America in 1854 with his father, John Bruce, who first settled in Schenectady, New York, but three years later came to Delaware county, Iowa, and became one of the pioneer settlers of that county. In 1871 he came to Sac county, where he bought land in Wheeler township, but did not move his family from Delaware county until the spring of 1874. John Bruce was one of the first settlers in Wheeler township and died in Odebolt April 7, 1895, at an advanced age. Four sons accompanied John Bruce to Sac county: John, deceased; Robert, deceased; Andrew, who lives near Kingsley, Iowa, and J. S., father of the subject of this brief review.

J. S. Bruce was married in Delaware county, Iowa, and settled on his farm there. He lived on this farm of two hundred acres for about one year, and, then, in the spring of 1874, removed to Sac county and lived on his farm in Wheeler township until he moved to Garber, Oklahoma, in the fall of 1900. He added to his land holdings from time to time and when he left this state he was the owner of six hundred acres of fine farming land in Wheeler township, and has since acquired four hundred and eighty acres in Oklahoma. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bruce were as follows: James L., whose life history is here given; Lewis Edward, of Garber, Oklahoma; Mrs. Jennie Potter, wife of Dr. W. L. Potter, a dentist of Garber, Oklahoma; Verrian, of Garber, Oklahoma; Bertha, of Fort Worth, Texas; Mrs. Blanche Brunken, of Garber, Oklahoma; Harry, of the same place.

James L. Bruce was reared on his father's farm in Wheeler township,

this county, and received a limited education in the district schools of his township. In 1896 he began farming for himself, purchasing part of the old home place. In the fall of 1904 he sold his farm and in the spring of 1905 he moved to Odebolt, where he took employment in the hardware store of Mattes Company. After working for this firm for two years, he was manager of the Trans-Mississippi Grain Elevator for three years, and in the fall of 1909 he purchased a half interest in the grain business of A. H. W. Reuber, which is noted in detail elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of Mr. Reuber.

Mr. Bruce was married January 3, 1900, to Nellie Johnson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Johnson, of DeWitt, Iowa, and they are the parents of one daughter, Rosmer Loraine, who was born October 6, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while Mr. Bruce is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Politically, Mr. Bruce has been identified with the Republican party and is now a member of the city council of Odebolt. He is a man of high ideals and clean character and is well worthy of mention in a biographical volume of this nature, which is intended to include the representative men of Sac county.

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### HENRY FREY.

One of the earliest German settlers of Sac county, Iowa, was Henry Frey, who came to this county forty years ago, and he has been a witness of the remarkable change which has come about in this county from the time that the first land in this county was tilled down to the present time, when it is covered with some of the finest farms to be found any place in the world. He was born February 17, 1836, in Germany, his parents, John and Katharine (Schwartz) Frey, belonging to the class known in Germany as High Germans. His parents were farmers and his father, John Frey, was ambitious for his children to make a success in life. Accordingly, in the autumn of the year 1851, John Frey and his whole family, consisting of his wife and six children, John, Henry, Phillip, George, Christina, Barbara and Katharine, crossed the ocean and landed in New York on November 8, 1851. They came over in an old-fashioned sailing vessel and their voyage was nine weeks in length. They came direct from New York City to Chicago, landing there in the midst of winter. They at once settled in Lake county, twenty-two miles out of Chicago, where John Frey bought a forty-acre farm. A



year later he moved to Lee county, Iowa, where he bought another farm. In this county John Frey and his wife both passed the remainder of their days.

Henry Frey was fifteen and one-half years of age when his father decided to come to this country with his family. He had received the best education which the local schools of his community in Germany afforded, and upon coming to this country he began to help his father upon the farm. He was married in Lee county, Illinois, and lived there until 1874. On April 30th of that year he bought three hundred and twenty acres of land in Clinton township, Sac county, paying five dollars an acre for the land. Eleven years later he bought eighty acres more, for which he paid twenty-five dollars an acre, and still owns the four hundred acres which he purchased in this township. He has two complete sets of buildings on his land. When he first purchased these tracts, the land was raw prairie and the hand of man had never touched it. His nearest trading place was Storm Lake, and in order to get the lumber to build his first home he had to haul it from Vail, Iowa. As he was the first settler in his part of the township, he was looked upon as a man of judgment when it came to advising other farmers what to do and how to manage their crops in the new locality. Many people came from Lee county and settled in Sac county, and the Frey home became the center of many new incoming families. Mr. Frey continued to reside upon his farm until 1903, when he moved to Odebolt, where he has since lived, having a pleasant, modern home in that city, equipped with all the latest conveniences.

Mr. Frey was married in 1860 to Katrina Luft, a native of Germany, whose death occurred in 1908, at the age of seventy-two. They were the parents of ten children, only one of whom is living, George Henry, who was born in Lee county, Illinois, March 11, 1874. He is the owner of the automobile shop and garage in Odebolt, and married Katharine Mehlbrech, and they have two daughters, Florence and Anna. The children who are deceased are Jacob, William, Mary, Katharine and five who died in infancy.

Mr. Frey has long been identified with the Republican party in this county and was one of the early trustees of his township. Religiously, he and his family have long been members of the German Methodist Episcopal church, and render it substantial assistance in every way. The career of Mr. Frey in this county has been one well worthy of emulation, because it shows what can be accomplished by a man who applies himself with the proper determination.



## WILLIAM A. STANZEL.

We are taught that the immortality of the soul is the divine gift to humanity; that life does not end when the body ceases to breathe, and when we are no longer in the flesh on this earth into which we are born, the immortal soul, freed of its earthly casing, soars onward and upward to the unknown realms wherein there is neither strife, nor sorrow, nor travail, nor pain—there to be judged and taken to the bosom of the great Ruler of the Universe forever and ever. Be it so—it is a comforting thought to those of us who remain on earth to live out our allotted span of years and to do our work as assigned, that we shall meet again with loved ones in the Great Beyond from which no man has yet returned. The departure of the soul of William A. Stanzel from its earthly habitation marked the close of a long and honorable career as a pioneer settler of Sac county, a kind and provident father and a highly esteemed citizen.

William A. Stanzel was born August 31, 1833, in Schonnecow, Prussia, in the highlands of Germany. He was the son of Martin and Eva Rosanna Stanzel, the father being a miller by trade. In 1847 his mother died and the father, accompanied by his family of five sons and two daughters, set sail for America. Some of his family had preceded him and had located near the city of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Here the immigrants likewise settled and there William A. lived for a time. When still a youth he left home and journeyed westward in search of fortune. After a stay of some months in the city of St. Paul, he came southward to Illinois. Here things apparently did not satisfy him and opportunity seemed remote, so he came on into Iowa and settled down to the serious and commendable pursuit of farming in Clinton county. He prospered and was rewarded for his diligence and industry and was doubly blessed when he took to wife Mrs. Laurinda R. (Clark) Kenyon on the 27th day of August, 1864. This was a fortunate day for him, as later events proved.

Laurinda R. (Clark) Kenyon, with whom this narrative is also intimately concerned, was born March 13, 1842, on a farm in Delaware county of the old Buckeye state. The parental farm was located in Berkshire township. She is the daughter of Barnabas and Submit (Hitchcock) Clark, and is a descendant of an old and illustrious American family which dates its origin back to the days of the Pilgrim Fathers and the best blood of New England flows in the veins of her and her children. The Clark family, according to authentic record, begins in America with Thomas Clark, a first mate of the historic ship



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. STANZEL.



"Mayflower." It is recorded in history that he was the first of the Pilgrims to land on the bleak shores of New England. Beginning with Barnabas Clark, father of Mrs. Stanzel, and tracing backward, we find that he was the son of Alvin Clark and was born September 11, 1799; was married in May of 1824 to Submit Hitchcock, who was born on January 2, 1801, and died May 6, 1878. Barnabas learned the trade of wagonmaker, but also worked as a skilled craftsman in the engraving art. He settled in Delaware county, Ohio, and removed from there to Clinton county, Iowa, after his marriage. He died September 27, 1890. His children were as follows: Samuel Hall Clark, deceased; Mary Jane Dunkin, deceased; Sabra Clapp (Wade), of Elwood; Frederick Hanks, postmaster of Lakeview; Mrs. Laurinda Roxana Stanzel. It is worthy of note that Prof. Alvin Clark, the famous telescope manufacturer and astronomer, of world-wide fame, was a brother of Barnabas Clark.

William A. Stanzel and his capable wife resided on a farm in Clinton county until 1876, when they sold out their holdings and on March 1st came to Sac county. Their welcome in the county was not a very pleasant nor an inviting one, as they arrived here while a blizzard was raging with all the characteristic fierceness and extreme cold which accompanies the northwestern winter storm. This blizzard followed an exceptionally mild winter. They invested their capital in three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Clinton township. With only a small frame, unlined and unplastered house to shelter them, they lived here during the terrible cold and with the thermometer registering twenty degrees below zero. Mrs. Stanzel was then nursing a child but six months old. Their first year's crops were very poor, the corn being small and the wheat very light. To add hardships to their bad luck, the grasshoppers came in the fall and stripped the place of everything edible and left a barren waste in their wake. However, they saved a little from the wreck, for Mrs. Stanzel gathered in the cabbage heads as fast as the greedy "hoppers" stripped off the outer leaves. When it came time to sow the crops for next season it devolved upon Judge Criss, ever the firm friend of the farmers, to offer advice which was acceptable and resulted in a good wheat crop for the ensuing year. Judge Criss advised Mr. Stanzel and others to sow their wheat very thick so as to prevent the "hoppers" from getting into the field in order to eat the grain and the plan worked to perfection.

Mrs. Stanzel recalls vividly the terrible winter of 1880 and 1881 as being the most severe in Sac county of all her experience. From early October to late in the spring the snow was very deep and did not disappear from the ground until April 17th. Another very heavy snow came on April 20th. Nearly all of the early settlers in Clinton township came from Clinton county,

Iowa, and the township was named in honor of Clinton county. For over forty years these brave and hardy pioneers lived on their fine farm and in May of 1907 they removed to Odebolt, where Mr. Stanzel died in January of 1911. Mrs. Stanzel resides in the fine residence which they purchased.

This estimable and worthy couple have reared the following children: George C., a prosperous farmer in Boyer Valley township; Silas, a farmer living in Wall Lake township; Mrs. Eve S. Fuller, of Odebolt; William A., Jr., a prosperous farmer living in Odebolt; Mrs. Mary Hannah Scott, of Boyer Valley township; Herman R., a merchant in Odebolt; Mrs. Harriet Hooper, of Boyer Valley township; Barnabas, on the old home place in Clinton township. The mother of these children had been previously married and widowed before her union with Mr. Stanzel. She was first married on July 9, 1857, to Phineas Kenyon, a native of New York state and an early settler in Clinton county, Iowa, coming there in about 1855. He was a Union soldier and served his country in Company B, Twenty-sixth Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was a corporal in the army and served for one year. He died September 23, 1863, leaving fatherless two children, Charles E., who died in 1901, and Alvan B., a resident of Ringgold, Iowa.

Mr. Stanzel was one of the wealthiest farmers and one of the largest landowners in Sac county at the climax of his successful career. He owned in excess of one thousand acres of land, most of which was improved. Before his demise he gave each grown son a deed to one hundred and sixty acres of improved land and gave outright to each daughter eighty acres of land, and gave a third daughter one hundred and sixty acres of land on account of the fact that she remained at home and cared for her parents in their old age. This showed his wonderful wisdom and foresight, as every child is a resident of Sac county, and all are prominent and valued citizens of the neighborhoods in which they reside.

Mr. Stanzel was a life-long Republican in politics and capably filled the office of trustee of his township, served as treasurer for a number of years and was also the honored president of the township school board. He was one of the leading figures in the civic life of the township and county for a long period and was universally respected and admired by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He was reared in the faith of his fathers, that of the Evangelical Lutheran church, but during his residence in Sac county he became affiliated with the Congregational church. Mrs. Stanzel is a devout Christian lady who values her membership in the Methodist church and is a liberal giver to the cause of religion. She is one of the kindest and most intelligent of women, who, despite her more than three score years and ten is

still vigorous and hearty and keenly alive to the desirability of maintaining an interest in the every-day occurrences of this progressive age.

This biographical narrative is respectfully dedicated to the memory of her husband and as a tribute to the wonderful record which she and her husband have made in Sac county; again, it will prove to be a priceless memoir to her children and grandchildren in the years to come and serve as an inspiration to the present and coming generations. It is of such noble people as they of whom the historian is pleased to write.

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### JOHN N. SCHMITZ.

A truly capable man but fulfills the plan of his Creator. The life of man, while to a certain extent dependent for its breadth and altruism upon man himself and the exercise of God-given talents in behalf of himself and his fellow human beings, is inevitably controlled by a power unseen, but felt in all of its significance. The individual being is but an instrument in many respects who seems naturally endowed to perform certain deeds; this done, and his life work apparently accomplished, the Creator calls him homeward, to be judged according to his deserts. The life of man, when measured, not by years alone, but rather by a purpose achieved and by good deeds accredited to it, is true and comforting. While we sorrow because of the departure of a loved one from our midst, and feel many times that he could not be spared, we console ourselves with the knowledge that it was inevitable. The grim messenger heeds not and we are left to mourn and accept submissively. Such thoughts naturally arise when we contemplate the life work and notable career of John N. Schmitz, pioneer banker of Odebolt, Iowa, and who was a useful citizen in every sense of the word.

Mr. Schmitz was born December 2, 1843, in Germany. He was the son of Nicholas Schmitz, a farmer by occupation, who came to America and settled in Dubuque county, Iowa, in the year 1860. John N. enlisted in the Union army in January, 1862, when he was but nineteen years old and served his country on the battlefields of the great Rebellion for three long years. He was engaged in the great battles of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, and many others, while in the Union service. When the war closed he returned to his home near Dubuque and endeavored to finish his interrupted education. He studied in a Dubuque commercial college so as to equip himself for success in the marts of com-

merce and trade and fitted himself in other ways for a life of active endeavor. He taught in the schools of Dubuque county for over twelve years. In April, 1882, he came to Sac county and embarked in the retail merchandise business in partnership with his brother, Leonard Schmitz, in Odebolt, who also was a Union veteran. In 1886 the brothers dissolved partnership and John N. established an insurance and loan business, which was later, in January, 1901, followed by the opening of the German Bank. Mr. Schmitz became prosperous and wealthy while engaged in business in Odebolt, and, like other far-seeing men, he invested heavily in farm lands, which rose rapidly in value. At the time of his death he was possessed of over eight hundred acres of good Iowa lands, for which he paid variable prices ranging from thirty dollars to forty dollars an acre. He had unbounded confidence in the inevitable great future of western Iowa and was one of the most consistent optimists in the community in which he had cast his lot. He had a sublime and confiding faith in the ultimate prosperity of the community and invested his funds according to his faith. He was always a liberal supporter of public enterprises and his purse was ever open to assist a worthy undertaking for the benefit of the community. He was a Democrat in politics, but always took an independent position in local and county political affairs and generally cast his influence and vote in favor of the most able and capable men according to his judgment. He was a leading member of St. Martin's Catholic church of Odebolt and assisted materially and liberally in defraying the expenses incidental to the erection of the handsome buildings owned by the congregation. He held an honored place as a comrade of Goodrich Post, Grand Army of the Republic. His demise occurred July 31, 1905, and he was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, it being felt that the city had lost one of its strongest characters and a most able citizen.

Mr. Schmitz was married October 28, 1873, to Mary Anna Weiland, who was born in Germany in the year 1852 and emigrated to America with her parents in 1853, being reared in Dubuque county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz reared five children, Augustine J. N. Schmitz, Mary, A. F. P. Schmitz, Katharine and A. J. P., all residents of Sac county. The sons of this excellent and worthy gentleman are following in their father's footsteps and conducting the banking business which he established in a capable and able manner. Their standing in the community as upright and conscientious men of affairs is assured.

The German Savings Bank is a successor to the German Bank, established in 1901 by John N. Schmitz and succeeded the loan business form-



erly conducted by this gentleman. It was first operated as a private concern and known as the German Bank. In September, 1905, the German Savings Bank was incorporated by his sons. A handsome new building, built of Bedford stone and pressed brick, in dimension thirty by forty-eight feet, was erected at cost of over seven thousand dollars. Modern fixtures were installed and well appointed conveniences for the transaction of business were placed. In addition to a modern vault, the bank is equipped with safety deposit vaults which will accommodate boxes to the number of one hundred and twenty-five. An insurance and farm loan department is also conducted by the proprietors. The farm loan business has always been an extensive department of the business and the sons are gradually increasing its scope and also further developing the insurance department. This bank has a capital of fifty thousand dollars, a surplus of five thousand, and deposits and resources totalling two hundred and fifty thousand. The officers are as follows: Augustine J. N. Schmitz, president; A. F. P. Schmitz, cashier, and A. J. P. Schmitz, assistant cashier.

There is probably no institution of its kind conducted in Sac county with more care and better business judgment than the German Savings Bank at Odebolt. Its managers have been instilled with habits of rectitude and uprightness in their business dealings through the influence of the example set by their illustrious parents. Aside from this, these young men are known favorably for their individual sterling worth and are possessed of attributes and capabilities above the average, facts which commend them to their fellow citizens.

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#### R. C. SEBERN, M. D.

One of the recognized leaders in the medical profession of Sac county is Dr. R. C. Sebern, of Odebolt. Though a comparatively young man, Doctor Sebern has well established himself in his calling, for which he has admirably equipped himself, and, with judicious discrimination, he has kept fully abreast of the best medical thought of the times. His success offers the most effective voucher of his ability and has been of the most unequivocal order.

Dr. R. C. Sebern was born in Lake City, Iowa, June 25, 1881, the son of T. H. and Martha (McNish) Sebern, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of New York state, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. T. H. Sebern was a stock buyer and shipper and removed from Indiana to Iowa, locating in Lake City, where he resided for many years.

Doctor Sebern received his primary education in the Lake City high school. His collegiate training was received at the medical department of the Iowa State University at Iowa City, from which institution he graduated in 1904. He established himself in Odebolt the same year, and has been engaged here continuously in the practice of his profession. In the fall of 1913 he pursued a post-graduate course in New York City. Thus thoroughly fortified for the work of his exacting vocation, his success has been on a parity with his distinctive technical ability. The Doctor is an appreciative and valued member of the Sac County Medical Society, the Northwestern Iowa Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is also a member of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Surgeons Association, being the local surgeon in Odebolt for that railroad.

Politically, Doctor Sebern gives his allegiance to the Republican party, and fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order.

Doctor Sebern is essentially progressive and public spirited as a citizen, and while all other interests have been subordinate to his devotion to his profession, he has not failed in any civic duties, and willingly supports every cause having for its object the betterment of the community.

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### JOSEPH PARKINSON.

An historical volume always has a place of honor for the pioneer settler; to him is due the credit of having braved the hardships which accompany the first hard struggles endured as necessary in the herculean task of wresting a home from out of the vast emptiness of the prairie and paving the way for the influx of immigration which usually follows the advent of the first brave and hardy conquerors of the wilderness. He it was who lived in a board shack for a home, or mayhap a dugout, and eked out his existence by hunting and trapping the wild game and lived for months far away from the centers of civilization and at a long distance from neighbors. The pioneer family are of the "salt of the earth" and are deserving of honors and prestige in the community for the noble work accomplished in behalf of restless and every moving humanity. Joseph Parkinson, of the city of Lake View, Sac county, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest pioneer settler in point of years of residence in the county residing in his home town and township.

Mr. Parkinson was born in 1836 at Ramsbottom, Lancashire, England,

the son of Lawrence and Fannie (Wolwork) Parkinson. The father of Fannie Wolwark was a fighting soldier in the British army at the time of her birth.

Joseph Parkinson came to America in 1851 and located in Philadelphia. He was first married at Chester, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, in 1861, to Sarah Dover, a native of England, who was born in 1831. Their children are as follows: John, born at Upland, Pennsylvania, in May, 1862, and died in 1895; Mrs. Mary Jane Sherwood, born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, July 6, 1863, and resides in the town of Wall Lake; Mrs. Harriet Sonnichsen, born in Grant county, Wisconsin, in April, 1864, and resides in Wall Lake township; Priscilla, born in Sac county in 1869 and died in 1874; Emma, born in Sac county in 1872 and died of scarlet fever in 1874 (both are buried in the Grant City cemetery); William, born in 1877, residing in Viola township; Frank, born in 1880, lives in Sac county. The mother of these children died in 1882. Her mother was Mary Dover, who had three children, Thomas, Sarah and Mary Ellen.

Mr. Parkinson's second marriage took place in 1889 with Eliza Birch, a daughter of Henry and Agatha (Troutman) Birch, natives of Germany, who emigrated to America and settled in Ohio in the year 1849. Mrs. Parkinson was born in Springfield, Ohio. To this union have been born the following children: Florence, born January 25, 1890, and died January 29, 1913; Fred, born in 1892 and died when five months of age.

In the year 1861 Mr. Parkinson was called out by the governor of Pennsylvania to fight for the Union and first drilled in a company of eighty men at Upland, near Chester, under Captain Kirkman. He was mustered into the Fifty-second Regiment, Volunteer Infantry of Pennsylvania, in September of 1861. His nephew, Thomas Parkinson, enlisted in the same company. The call went forth for sixty thousand volunteers from the state of Pennsylvania at this time and it was intended to use this vast array of militia to repel the threatened invasion of the state by the Rebels. Happily the invasion of the state by the Confederate soldiers was forestalled at this time and the company was returned to Upland.

In 1863 Mr. Parkinson removed to Racine, Wisconsin. In 1864 he moved to a farm in Walworth county and two years later he settled in Grant county, where he and his family resided until 1868. He and a good sized company of emigrants, relatives, friends and neighbors, thirteen in all, set out for Sac county in the spring of 1868, arriving at the old town of Grant City on the 30th day of April, 1868. The party set out from the town of Bloomington, Wisconsin. Accompanying the pioneer were his wife and

three eldest children, and a brother and sister as follows: Christopher, whose son Walter is a resident of Lake View, and who was likewise accompanied by his daughter, Elizabeth; Thomas Nadico Parkinson, who had a son named James. There were also two children in the Dover family included in the party with their parents as aforementioned. The party left Bloomington on April 16, 1868, and were ensconced in two great "prairie schooners." The trip was uneventful, but was greatly enjoyed by the migrants. Joseph took up some railroad land at a cost of seven dollars an acre, situated at the eastern shores of Wall lake. He sowed five acres to wheat during the first season and received a crop of forty-eight bushels from his five acres. He paid five dollars for the threshing. The family resided in a house owned by George Hicks, of Grant City, during their first year's residence in Sac county. In the fall he set about the erection of a log cabin, sixteen by twenty feet in dimension, hauling the logs from Grant City. Under this cabin he excavated a cellar seven feet in depth and walled it up with "nigger heads" picked up on his land. This served as their place of abode for several years and was later replaced by a larger frame structure. The family resided on this farm until 1900 and then Mr. Parkinson and his faithful wife retired to a pretty cottage in Lake View for a well-earned rest in their remaining years. He disposed of two hundred acres of his land in October, 1911, at an excellent price and then invested in a farm of one hundred and twenty acres located four miles south of Sac City. He is also the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Saskatchewan, Canada, near the city of Watson.

Politically, this well respected pioneer citizen has generally been allied with the Republican party, and has served as a member of the school board. His good wife is a member of the Congregational church and they both are known for their deep religious convictions and as upright moral members of the community in which they reside and are universally respected and loved.

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#### DAVID S. HUSTON.

Many citizens of Sac county, Iowa, have come from the good old Keystone state of Pennsylvania and wherever they are found in this county they are among the most prosperous citizens. It is a fact that it is the most venturesome and the most ambitious people who have the courage to make their homes in a new country, and this accounts in great measure for the splendid prosperity which has come to Sac county in its history. The fact that its



DAVID S. HUSTON AND FAMILY



citizens are men of courage and determination, who came here to better their condition, has given this county a citizenship which has made for prosperity in every particular.

David S. Huston, a prosperous farmer of Boyer Valley township, in Sac county, Iowa, was born March 25, 1864, in Perry county, Pennsylvania. His parents, John W. and Mary Jane Huston, were natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Sac county in 1882. They purchased eighty acres of land north of Early in this township, and later bought two hundred and forty acres in Cook township and later bought eighty acres which David afterwards purchased. In their old age Mr. and Mrs. John W. Huston moved to Early, where they both died in 1909, his death occurring on September 5th and her's on March 30th. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Huston were the parents of six sons, all of whom are living: David S., with whose history we are concerned; Edward T., a resident of Cook township, this county; Abner B., of Early; Frank, a farmer of Boyer Valley township; Charles, of Spencer, Iowa, and George, of Cook township, this county.

David S. Huston was eighteen years of age when his parents came from Pennsylvania to Sac county. He received his education in the schools of his native state and as soon as he came to this county he began to work on his father's farm. When he was twenty-one years of age he began farming for himself, and eight years later bought eighty acres from his father in Cook township. As soon as he was married, in 1888, he located on his mother's farm of eighty acres in Cook township, where he lived for eleven years. In 1899 he began buying his present farm of two hundred and forty-two acres, paying fifty-five dollars an acre for one hundred and forty-two and one-half acres in 1899 and one hundred and sixteen dollars for one hundred acres in 1909. This land is now worth two hundred dollars an acre, because of the many improvements which he has put upon the land, as well as the natural increase which has come to all of the land in this section of Iowa. In 1910 he erected a new barn, forty by seventy feet, in order to care for his stock in a better manner. He prepares a large amount of stock for the markets each year, and averages two car loads of cattle and one car load of hogs annually. Mr. Huston has lately made substantial additions to his fine home near Early, having added verandas, cement walks, and raised the elevation of the residence and completely wired his home and barns for electric lights. With the installation of a furnace for heating purposes, he has now completely modernized his home. Electric power is now utilized in doing the work about the home. His many improvements have cost to exceed one thousand six hundred dollars.



Mr. Huston was married on September 6, 1888, to Mary L. Ruffcorn, of Delaware township, in this county, and to this union there have been born four children: Mrs. Olive Simpson, whose husband is a farmer in Boyer Valley township; Vaughn H., who was born March 30, 1899; David and Leland, born January 18, 1906, and Harriet Avis, born February 18, 1909. The last three children named are still under the parental roof. Mrs. Olive Simpson is the mother of one child, Dale Orlando, born May 16, 1914.

Politically, Mr. Huston is an independent, although his leanings are toward the Democratic party, and, like millions of other voters in 1912, he voted for Woodrow Wilson, believing that the principles advocated by Mr. Wilson were such as to insure the greatest prosperity to our country. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and takes an active part in all the work of this fraternal organization. Mr. Huston is a kind and obliging gentleman, who is an independent thinker on all topics. He has always had the interest of his community at heart and has never failed to identify himself with any enterprise or measure which he felt would redound to the best interests of his locality.

On September 4, 1913, the Wachs family reunion was held at Mr. Huston's home and descendants and members of the Wachs family to the number of fifty-three were present. On the same evening friends to the number of two hundred and forty gathered at the home to assist Mr. and Mrs. Huston in celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. The next Wachs family reunion will be held in Oklahoma.

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#### EDWARD H. CRANE, M. D.

Citizenship in its highest sense calls for the best that there is in the individual. It requires the exercise of talents which too often are allowed to lie dormant on account of timidity or lassitude on the part of those upon whom the well being of the people of any community depends. The learned physicians have ever been a potent factor in public affairs when especially gifted with a desire to assist in the betterment of conditions and when endowed with qualities of leadership. They are usually found in the forefront of movements having a tendency to elevate the standard of citizenship and wield a powerful influence in shaping public affairs in many communities. A proper presentation of the manifold attributes and accomplishments of Dr. Edward H. Crane, of Odebolt, reveals the ostensible fact that he is a young

man blessed with endowments far above the usual and commonplace and gifted with the powers of leadership to a marked degree.

Doctor Crane was born December 18, 1875, on a farm in Cedar county, Iowa. His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth (Jones) Crane, natives of the Isle of Man and the state of Kentucky, respectively. Thomas Crane was born on the isle of Man in the year 1844. When ten years of age he and his orphaned brother came to America in company with an uncle, who settled in Jones county, Iowa. Thomas took up the struggle for subsistence when very young and it is said that he drove the breaking team which turned the prairie sod on the site of the city of Monticello, Iowa. When he attained his majority he married Elizabeth Jones, a native of Kentucky and who was of Welsh-Irish descent. After his marriage, Thomas Crane located in Cedar county, where he resided and prospered until 1876, when he removed to the town of Battle Creek, Ida county, and there became prominently identified with the pioneer life of the community. He became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of Ida county lands, which he tilled until 1904 and then removed to Battle Creek to lead a life of repose in his remaining years. He is also the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of good farm land in South Dakota. He is the father of seven sons and one daughter: Elmer, a ranchman in Oklahoma; Frank, a resident of Denver; William, a merchant in Battle Creek; Jennie, who is her father's housekeeper; Charles, also at home; Dr. Edward H.; and Dr. Odell Crane, who enjoys a lucrative practice in Spokane, Washington. The mother of this family died in December of 1913. It can be truly said of the mother that she was a noble woman and a kind parent who instilled into the hearts and minds of her children thoughts and habits of rectitude that have been of the highest assistance in enabling them to occupy high places in the esteem of their fellow citizens in their respective places of abode. She was finely educated and was widely and favorably known for her literary ability.

Doctor Crane studied in the district schools and spent his evenings poring over his books under the guidance and instruction of his capable mother. He prepared himself to teach school and spent three and one-half years in the useful avocation, in the meantime advancing himself by completing a course in the Iowa Teachers' College at Cedar Falls. He was granted a state teacher's certificate in 1900. While a student in the Teachers' College he took an active part in college athletics, was a leader of his class and graduated with high honors. He matriculated in the College of Medicine, Iowa State University, at Iowa City, in the fall of 1900 and graduated therefrom in the spring of 1904. While a student here he won the state

championship for putting the shot and was the class orator for the Middle-tonian Society of the university. For a period of two years after graduation he practiced his profession at Correctionville, Iowa, and in the fall of 1906, accompanied by his wife, he entered the Harvard Medical College and pursued a post-graduate course for one year. At the expiration of his Harvard course he located in Odebolt and has achieved a remarkable success as a physician and in the establishment of the Odebolt Hospital.

The Odebolt Hospital is the only one of its kind in two counties and was established by Doctor Crane in 1913. It is located in a large, white frame building on the main street of the city and is completely fitted up for the care of the sick and for surgical operations. The building contains twenty rooms, including well appointed offices and operating rooms. Ten patients can be accommodated and cared for at one time. From one to four professional nurses are in attendance at all times, and the hospital, with its appurtenances, is at the disposal of the local physicians and nurses and those of the surrounding towns. Over one hundred patients are annually treated within its doors and the institution bears a favorable and growing reputation throughout the neighborhood.

Doctor Crane holds membership in the Sac County Medical Society, the Missouri Valley Medical Society and the Iowa State Medical Society. He is a pronounced Progressive in politics and is gaining a wide reputation as one of the state leaders of the party. At the present time he is county secretary of the Sac county Progressives and is widely known as an active worker in behalf of Progressive principles. Doctor Crane is the Progressive candidate for Congress in the eleventh Iowa district, the largest in territorial extent and population in the state. Being a speaker of recognized oratorical ability, he is in great demand in the meetings of the Progressive followers in an advisory and speech-making capacity. He is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church and is fraternally connected with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and various other secret societies.

Doctor Crane was married in September, 1906, to Elizabeth Thorn, of Correctionville, who has borne him four children: Margaret, aged six years; Edward, who is four years old; Elizabeth, aged two years, and a son four months of age.

The career of this capable and rising young man will bear favorable observation. His qualities of leadership and pronounced ability have marked him for high preferment by his associates and friends in all walks of life. This history would be incomplete did it not contain this foregoing review.

## ALBERT DAVENPORT.

It is a fine thing when a man can retire in his old age with the satisfaction that he has attained enough of this world's good in order to live his declining years in comfort. Hundreds of Sac county's best farmers have retired within the last few years, after having lived lives marked by hard work and are now enjoying their last years in peace and quiet. Among the many retired farmers of Odebolt, who have laid by a competency sufficient to maintain them in their declining years, there is no one more highly honored and respected than Albert Davenport, who was born September 25, 1857, in Clinton county, Iowa. He is the son of Charles L. and Mary (Parnell) Davenport, natives respectively of Ohio and England.

Charles L. Davenport was born January 15, 1830, in Ohio and died in Odebolt August 1, 1905. He was the son of John Davenport, a native of Ohio and one of the pioneer settlers of that state. In 1838 John Davenport emigrated to Indiana, where he died. In the spring of 1857 Charles L. Davenport came to Clinton county, Iowa, and was one of the pioneer settlers of this state. In 1883 he came to Sac County, settling in Odebolt. He was one of the most prosperous farmers of the township. Mary Parnell, the mother of Albert Davenport, was born in England in 1833 and came with her parents across the ocean to Ohio when she was only six weeks old. She died in Sac county, Iowa, in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davenport reared a family of five children: Mrs. Laura Correll, who was born April 15, 1855, and died in Odebolt July 15, 1913; Albert, whose history is herein recorded; Agnes, who died at the age of six; Lincoln H., a farmer living one mile east of Odebolt; Jesse C., of Clear Lake, Iowa.

Albert Davenport was educated in the district schools of Clinton county and later attended Mt. Vernon Academy. Upon his marriage in 1882 he came to Sac county and located on a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm given him by his father. Later he purchased an additional quarter section of land and for the next twenty-six years successfully farmed the half section of land in Clinton township. He improved his farm by drainage and fencing and was regarded as one of the successful farmers of his community. In the spring of 1908 he moved to Odebolt and purchased a large modern residence where he is now living. He owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota and one hundred and sixty acres in North Dakota.

Mr. Davenport was married February 15, 1882, to Alice Collenbaugh, the daughter of Christopher Collenbaugh, a native of Indiana. See the sketch

of B. F. Collenbaugh elsewhere in this volume for additional information on the Collenbaugh family. Mr. and Mrs. Davenport have one child living, Hazel, and one deceased, Grace A., who died at the age of twenty years in 1904.

Politically, Mr. Davenport is a Republican and has served as assessor of his home township. He and his wife are stanch members of the Methodist Episcopal church and give it their support at all times.

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### HARRY B. FOX.

The development of Sac county has now reached the stage that practically calls for the retirement of the pioneers who have borne the brunt of the hardships and have conquered the wilderness for all time. The burdens of responsibility are gradually being shifted upon younger shoulders. The sons of the pioneers are taking the places formerly occupied by their sturdy parents. They are "making good" and are profiting in great measure by the scientific knowledge now obtainable for the promotion of agriculture and are endeavoring to increase the yields of the soils and progress along new lines.

Harry B. Fox, son of Marshall D. Fox, and who succeeded his father in the possession of the Ashlawn farm, which has long been the Fox homestead in Clinton township, is a progressive farmer and stockmen of decided ability. He owns two hundred acres of land, which is equipped with a fine residence and excellent modern buildings. He has recently, in the fall of 1911, completed a modern swine pen, which is built of stucco. His large barn is thirty-six by forty-two feet in extent and the adjacent shed is twenty-two by thirty-six feet in size. In addition to these buildings, the farm boasts a silo built of hollow tile in the summer of 1912. He is a breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle and the farm produces about twenty-five head annually. It also produces from eighty to ninety marketable hogs each year.

Harry B. Fox was born November 28, 1878, on the farm where he now lives and is the son of Marshall D. and Lydia (Bennett) Fox, pioneer settlers of Clinton township, and concerning whom the biographer has written an appreciation in the pages of this volume. He was educated in the district schools of the neighborhood and the Odebolt high school. He has been operating the home farm since 1908. In 1913 he purchased the tract of two hundred acres from his father.

Mr. Fox is politically allied with the Progressive party and is now serving a three-year term as township trustee, having been elected to this office in the fall of 1912. He belongs to the Methodist church and is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He holds the position of vice-president of the Sac County Farmers Institute, an important and influential assembly of Sac county agriculturists.

Mr. Fox was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Lydie C. Buehler, November 28, 1900. She is the daughter of George and Lucy M. Buehler, of Odebolt. Mr. and Mrs. Fox have three children: Eugene Marshall, born September 18, 1905; Paul George, born December 6, 1907, and Elinor Elaine, born October 16, 1910.

While young in years, this talented young man is already making his presence and capabilities felt in the neighborhood in which he has spent his entire life. He stands high in the esteem of the people who know him and his influence among his fellow citizens is considerable. Following in the footsteps of his esteemed father, he bids fair to become one of the influential figures of Sac county.

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#### SANKEY CHRISTIAN SONNICHSEN.

A descent of sturdy Germanic ancestry is S. C. Sonnichsen, a farmer of Wall Lake township, Sac county, Iowa. Since coming to this county in 1895 he has accumulated farm property, which is netting him a handsome return each year. His career has always been marked by those characteristics which have made all of the Germans of this county such desirable citizens. Not only has he been a successful tiller of the soil, but he has also taken his full share in the public life of his community.

S. C. Sonnichsen was born March 24, 1868, in Marion county, Iowa, and is the son of M. M. and Jetty Caroline (Datlefsen) Sonnichsen, both of whom were natives of Germany. M. M. Sonnichsen was born in Schleswig Holstein in 1835, and served in the Germanic-Danish war in 1863, eight years in all. After his marriage in 1857, he came with his wife and three children to America in 1866 and on the voyage to this country one child was born, Hannah, who died in January, 1907. The other three children who came with their parents in 1866, were Martin, of Colorado City, Colorado; Dora Hamilton, of Pocahontas county, and Mary Williams, of Custer, Oklahoma. The Sonnichsen family settled in Marion county, Iowa, in the year 1867 and after settling in this state four more children were born: S.



C., with whom this narrative deals; Anna (Forsythe), of Sac county, Iowa; Henry, of Hancock, Minnesota, and Jetty, deceased. The wife of M. M. Sonnichsen died in 1876, and he lived near Knoxville, Iowa, until May of 1914, when he came to Sac county to reside with his son, S. C. His second wife was Amy Delp, who died May 14, 1914.

S. C. Sonnichsen was reared and educated in Marion county, Iowa, and came with his parents to Sac county in the spring of 1889. Shortly after coming to Sac county, M. M. Sonnichsen went to Oklahoma, but returned in a few years to Sac county. In 1892 S. C. Sonnichsen removed to Newell, Buena Vista county, Iowa, where he lived three years. In the spring of 1895 he came to Sac county, renting a farm on the river for three years. He owned two farms in this county before he purchased his present farm of eighty acres in 1906.

Mr. Sonnichsen was married November 27, 1890, to Harriet Parkinson, the daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Dover) Parkinson. Her father was a native of England and is now living in Lake View in this county. To this marriage have been born two children. Emma, who was born March 18, 1896, and one child who died in infancy.

Mr. Sonnichsen has always given his support to the Democratic party and has been honored by his party by being nominated and elected to various local offices, among which was that of school director. He has always taken an active interest in politics and keeps well informed upon the current issues of the day. Fraternally, he is a member of the Yeomen and is deeply interested in the success of that fraternal organization. Mr. and Mrs. Sonnichsen are hospitable people who have a host of friends in this community who admire them for their many good qualities.

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### J. P. THERKELSEN.

It is an axiom in Sac county that a German settler is a prosperous citizen. History does not record a single case of a German settler who has come to this county and not succeeded. This is especially true of Sac county and among the three thousand citizens who have made this their home there is not one but who can be classed among the solid and substantial citizens of this favored spot of the state.

J. P. Therkelsen, a prosperous farmer, merchant and banker of Lake View, Iowa, was born September 16, 1850, in Schleswig, Germany, and is the



son of Thirkel Nelson and Christina Otto Therkelsen. His parents never came to this country, but a brother and sister, Jasper and Mrs. Lena Hansen, are now living in the city of Seattle, Washington.

J. P. Therkelsen moved to America in 1871 and located immediately in Clinton county, Iowa. His first employment was in a mercantile establishment and he remained there a year. Upon the country-wide call for labor after the Chicago fire of 1871, he went to Chicago to help in the stupendous task of removing the wreckage and debris from the streets of that ill-fated city. Later he followed various kinds of work in Chicago, in fact, doing anything which would earn him an honest penny. For four years he worked in Chicago, the last three years being employed in a store. With a thrift that characterizes all his people, he saved his money and in 1876 went to Des Moines and started a store of his own. Four years later he moved to Lake View and opened the second store in that new town. For the next thirty-one years he was constantly engaged in the mercantile business in Lake View and still owns the store, which is now occupying a large new brick building, erected by Mr. Therkelsen in 1893. In addition to his mercantile interests Mr. Therkelsen has invested some of his money in land and now has four hundred and five acres in two farms. One hundred and sixty acres is located near Lake View and this he oversees personally; he also has two hundred and forty-five acres in Winona county, this state.

Mr. Therkelsen was married March 3, 1881, to Anna Knudson, a native of Denmark and the daughter of Rasmus and Caroline Knudson. Her parents came to America in 1870 and later settled in Sac county in May, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Therkelsen are the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living in Lake View: Clarence, who is married and is cashier of Lake View State Bank; Christina; Helena; Robert; Fred, who is teller in Lake View State Bank; Frank; Naomi; Lynn; Jasper; Eugene, and William, deceased. Christina married W. F. Brower and lives in Lake View. William died at the age of two years. All of the remaining children are still living with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Therkelsen is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in politics. The indication of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens is shown in the fact that he has served as city councilman, a member of the school board and mayor of Lake View, and in all of these various offices he has acquitted himself with credit and has never failed to identify himself with every enterprise which he felt would benefit his home town. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, having attained the degree of Knight Templar, and is also

a member of the Mystic Shrine at Des Moines. Mr. and Mrs. Therkelsen live in a large, handsome home, and are giving their children the best of educational advantages with the idea of making them useful members of society later on. Mr. Therkelsen is a man of pleasing personality and is one of the most popular men of Lake View. His life history is marked by high motives which ranks him as a true American citizen.

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### REV. L. SCHENKELBERG.

The most self-sacrificing men are those who minister to the spiritual wants of men, and while they may not secure their reward in this world, they are always sure that their reward will eventually come. The work which the men of this class do is of such a nature that its good cannot always be calculated, and is never measured in dollars and cents. The successful business man may measure his success by his bank roll, while the minister of the gospel measures his by the souls he saves and the good he does in any community. Each man has his work to do, and both are essential to the civilization of our country, and it is not within the province of man to say that the worth of one is more than the other.

Rev. L. Schenkelberg, the pastor of St. Martin's Catholic church at Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, was born February 9, 1874, in the province of Rhien, in Germany, and is a son of William and Catharine (Olpertz) Schenkelberg. In his native country he secured the elements of a common school education, and when eighteen years of age came to this county, arriving here on April 28, 1892. He immediately came to Carroll county, Iowa, where he stayed for a short time with relatives. A few years later he began to prepare for the priesthood, by entering St. Lawrence College, Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. He completed the classical course at this institution and then pursued the philosophical course at St. Joseph's College at Dubuque, Iowa, graduating with the class of 1900. Then, in order to prepare himself the better for his chosen life work, he went to Montreal, Canada, and entered the Grand Seminary at that place. Here he pursued the theological course for the next three years and three months, at the close of which he was ordained a priest by the Most Rev. Paul D. Brushesi, the archbishop of Montreal. His ordination occurred on December 19, 1903, and on the 24th of the same month he became assistant pastor at St. Joseph's church, at Le Mars, Iowa. Fourteen months later he became the pastor at Ogden, Iowa,

and remained in this place for three and one-half years, after which followed a short period of service at Maryhill, Iowa, after which he went to Charter Oak, this state, taking charge of the St. Boniface church at that place on October 28, 1908. The church at this place had burned August 5, 1908, and upon his taking charge of the parish, he immediately began preparations for building a new church. In the spring of 1909 the congregation and Father Schenkelberg erected a magnificent new building of brick, at a cost of about nineteen thousand dollars and a residence at a cost of four thousand dollars. These buildings are entirely modern throughout and are among the finest in Crawford county, Iowa. Father Schenkelberg was transferred to Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, on October 30, 1913, and has since been ministering to the needs of the congregation at that place.

Father Schenkelberg has two brothers in this country, P. W., who resides in Carroll county, and is the county supervisor, and Henry, who is a prosperous farmer also living in Carroll county, this state. Father Schenkelberg is a man who possesses that simplicity, purity and humility of character which wins the affections of his parishioners and stands for the best things and with the large-hearted, optimistic view which he takes of life, he finds favor not only with the members of his own church, but with all other people with whom he is associated.

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### EARL C. ROGERS.

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the East and the West are combined in the residents of the section of country of which this volume treats. The enthusiastic enterprise which overleaps all obstacles and makes possible almost any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous Western states is here tempered by the stable and more careful policy that we have borrowed from our Eastern neighbors, and the combination is one of peculiar force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the country on a par with the older East, at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which is frequently lacking in the West. This happy combination of characteristics is possessed by the subject of this brief sketch.

E. C. Rogers, the owner and manager of the Lake View Creamery, was born December 14, 1857, in Broome county, New York. His parents were Earlman and Cornelia L. (Austin) Rogers, both of whom were natives of New York state and Connecticut, respectively.

In 1878 Mr. Rogers came to Iowa and located at Alden in Hardin county and taught school one year and returned to New York. In 1881 the entire family came, and E. C. began farming. As a farmer he prospered and rapidly accumulated a fine farm, to which he devoted all of his time and energy. In 1893 he became interested in the organization of a co-operative creamery at Alden and became the first president and later business manager of the plant. In 1898 he purchased a creamery in Ochevedan, which he managed for two years, then sold it and traveled for a creamery supply house for one year. In 1901 he returned to his farm of two hundred and twelve acres at Alden, where he remained for the next five years. In 1906 he sold his farm and went to Spartansburg, Pennsylvania, as butter maker in the largest creamery in that state. A year after entering the employ of the creamery company in that state he was injured in his right arm and left leg by an explosion in the factory and was compelled to resign his position. While recuperating he purchased the Lake View Creamery in partnership with his son, who began operations in January, 1908. He then came to Lake View, in Sac county, Iowa, after purchasing the creamery in this place which had been established in 1893. Mr. Rogers and son took full charge of the creamery in the spring of 1908 and have continued to manage it up until the present time. The building is twenty by fifty feet and has a capacity of eight hundred pounds of butter and two hundred gallons of ice cream daily. The season's output of butter amounts to over thirty thousand dollars in value and is shipped to New York City. Most of the ice cream is used for local consumption. The factory manufactured fourteen hundred gallons in 1900 during the months of July and August.

Mr. Rogers was married in 1880 to Ida M. More, a school girl friend of his in his native state. To this marriage have been born three children: Harold M., who was connected with his father in the creamery business and now a farmer in Wisconsin; Frank L., in the creamery at Lake View, and Richard L., a freshman in Grinnell College.

Mr. Rogers is a Progressive in politics, but the nature of his business has been such as to keep him out of the active service of his party. However, he takes an intelligent interest in political affairs. He and his family are loyal members of the Congregational church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Rogers is a man who has made a scientific study of the butter making industry and is regarded as one of the most expert men in his line in the state. He is a member of the Iowa Butter-Makers' Association and takes a deep interest in all the mat-

ters which come before that body. While he has been actively identified with the creamery business for many years and has made a success of his chosen vocation, yet he has not neglected his duty as a citizen of the community in which he lives; is a man of honesty and integrity and has won a host of friends since becoming a resident of Lake View.

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### W. M. DEAN.

It can not be other than interesting to note in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are outlined, and the effort has been made in each case to throw well focused light onto the individuality and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each respective career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor, and it is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate for future generations an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages, and the value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of which generic history is ever engendered.

W. M. Dean, of the Lake View Auto Company, was born February 5, 1877, in Castalia, Winneshiek county, Iowa. His parents were Franklin and Lucy (Morse) Dean. His father died in April, 1908, and his mother is still living in Lake View. Franklin Dean and wife were the parents of three children: George, who died at the age of twelve; Charles, of Roswell, South Dakota, and W. M., whose history is here presented. Franklin Dean and his wife moved to New York state, where they lived for a time and then came to Tama county, Iowa, and later settled in Lake View, Sac county, in 1903.

W. M. Dean was educated in the common schools of Winneshiek and Tama counties, Iowa. He also was in the high school at Toledo, Iowa, and later spent two years in the Western College at Toledo, the county seat of Tama county, Iowa. In the spring of 1898 Mr. Dean enlisted in the Forty-ninth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served from April, 1898, to June, 1899. He saw service in Cuba, in and around Havana. Upon his return home, he spent one year on the farm near Toledo, in Tama county, Iowa, and then worked two years for the John A. Owen Furniture Store

in Toledo. In 1902 he came to Lake View and operated a furniture store until 1913, when he sold out and devoted all his attention to the automobile business.

In 1908 Mr. Dean and R. N. Moyer established the Lake View Automobile Company. In 1909 Mr. Moyer sold his interest in the firm to A. Armstrong and Peter Smith. In 1911 Armstrong and Smith sold their interest to C. P. Armstrong, the firm now consisting of Mr. Dean and C. P. Armstrong. The firm has a large building and sales rooms, as well as a repair shop, with all of the necessary tools and machinery for repair work. The firm handles the Rambler, Maxwell and Ford automobiles and employs four men all the time. The company has a capital stock of twelve thousand dollars and sells about one hundred and fifty machines annually. Besides its sale of machines, it does a large business in the repair line.

Mr. Dean was married, November 27, 1902, to Ellen Ramsdell, of Tama county, Iowa. To this marriage has been born one son, Graham, who is now nine years of age. Politically, Mr. Dean is a Republican and identifies himself with the Progressive wing of the party. He was appointed city clerk in 1902 and served two terms and has also served four terms as mayor of Lake View. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Lake View and also belongs to the chapter at Sac City. He has also been district lecturer of the Iowa Masonic body since 1907. He served as master of Laurel Lodge 517, at Lake View during 1905-6-7. Mr. Dean is a man of pleasing personality and has a wide circle of acquaintances throughout Sac county, who admire him for his uprightness in business dealings and his interest in public affairs.

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### JOHN P. WELLS.

The following is a sketch of a plain, honest man of affairs, who by correct methods and a strict regard for the interests of his patrons has made his influence felt in Lake View and won for himself distinctive prestige in the business circles of that city. He would be the last man to sit for romance or become the subject of fancy sketches, nevertheless his life presents much that is interesting and valuable and may be studied with profit by the young, whose careers are yet to be achieved. He is one of those whose integrity and strength of character must force them into an admirable notoriety which their modesty never seeks, who command the respect of their contempo-



raries and their posterity and leave the impress of their individuality deeply stamped upon their community.

John P. Wells, a prosperous merchant of Lake View, Iowa, was born July 4, 1859, in Davis county, Iowa. His parents, C. C. and Sarah J. (Ware) Wells, were natives, respectively, of Kentucky and Indiana. C. C. Wells was born in 1826, and died in April, 1908. His wife was the daughter of James Ware, who settled in Davis county, Iowa, in about 1835 and lived among the Indians. C. C. Wells came to Davis county, Iowa, with his father, S. D. Wells, in 1838, and was one of the first settlers in that county. C. C. Wells and his wife spent the remainder of their days in Davis county, where they reared a family of six children: J. P., with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Mary Brewster, of Davis county; Mrs. Tempy Martin, also of Davis county; Mrs. Ona Brewster, of Kansas, and Ora, of Keokuk, Iowa.

Mr. Wells was educated in the schools of Davis county, this state, and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm. Upon his marriage, in 1882, Mr. Wells began to farm in Davis county, and continued there until 1902, when he traded his one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm for his present store in Lake View. He began business on October 10, 1903, with a stock of five hundred dollars worth of goods. He has gradually increased his stock until he now carries from eighteen thousand to twenty thousand dollars worth of goods at all times. He has a fine brick building on Main street and uses two floors, including the basement. He employs four clerks at all times and doubles his force on Saturdays and big trading days. He carries all of the goods usually found in general stores and by his courteous treatment of his customers and affable manner, has built up a large and lucrative trade in Lake View and the surrounding country.

Mr. Wells was married in February, 1882, to Bertha Bandle, a native of Davis county, Iowa, and to this union there have been born five children: Fred, who is in the store with his father; Paul, of Sac City; Mrs. Fay King, who lives in California; Pearl and Ruth. The members of the family are all faithful adherents of the Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, Mr. Wells is a member of the Democratic party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Lake View. Mr. Wells has made a decided success in business in this locality because of his honesty of purpose in all of his dealings with his fellow men. He is an advocate of clean and wholesome principles in home, society and politics, and because of his excellent character and splendid business ability he has earned and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him.



## PETER SMITH.

There is a little country in Europe by the name of Denmark whose citizens are among the most progressive and alert of any on the continent of Europe, and they are in a great measure very prosperous, this fact accounting for the few immigrants from that country who have made their homes in the United States. Occasionally one of the native sons of Denmark comes to this country, and wherever they are found they are usually among the most progressive and substantial men of their community. Sac county boasts of very few native sons of Denmark, but among these, Peter Smith, a successful stock buyer of Lake View, Iowa, gives a striking example of what may be accomplished by a foreigner who comes to this country with no financial backing, but with willing hands and heart.

Peter Smith, retired farmer and now a successful live stock dealer of Lake View, Iowa, was born June 3, 1850, in Denmark, the son of Fred and Anna (Petersen) Smith, who were born, lived and died in Denmark. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom came to America, namely: Thomas, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Fred S., deceased; Christ Frederickson, a half brother of Peter Smith; Peter, with whom this narrative deals, and Mrs. Sine Nelson, of Iowa.

Peter Smith received a practical education in his native country and at an early age he began to work for himself. As a young lad he helped his father on the farm operated by the latter and there learned the rudiments of farming. When he was twenty-one years of age he came to America and located at Cedar Falls, Iowa, but six months afterwards he went to Chicago at the time of the great fire, and worked at manual labor on the streets of the city, receiving good wages and saving his money with the intention of later buying western land. He then spent two years in the pine lumber camps of Saginaw, Michigan, and in 1873 went to Lee county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm. After his marriage in 1874 he rented a farm for one year and then decided to come to Sac county, Iowa, with a view of investing in land. For the first few years he rented land and in 1882 bought eighty acres for ten dollars an acre. He has added to his land holdings from time to time until at one time he owned four hundred acres in this county. The second eighty cost him sixteen dollars and a half an acre, the third eighty cost him twenty-seven dollars and a half an acre, the fourth eighty thirty-five dollars an acre, the fifth eighty forty-eight dollars an acre. In 1910 he sold one hundred and sixty acres to his son-in-law and still has two hundred and forty acres in Clinton township, which is worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. He continued to operate



MR. AND MRS. PETER SMITH



his farm until 1903, when he came to Lake View and here built a fine residence, where he has since resided. Since moving to Lake View he has been engaged in buying and shipping live stock in partnership with Alden Armstrong. In addition to his agricultural interests he has money invested in the Lake View State Bank and is now a director of that financial institution.

Mr. Smith was married in 1874 to Elsa Hansen, a native of Denmark and a resident of Lee county, Illinois, at the time of her marriage, and to this union have been born four children, all of whom are married and prospering. These children, in the order of their birth, are as follows: Mrs. Hattie Jones, of Clinton township, this county, who has five children, Raymond, Leo, Ernest, Fern and A. Peter; Ferry, who is living on the home farm in Clinton township, and has three children, Elsa, Eveline and Elva; John, who has been in the live stock commission business at Chicago since 1906, has three sons, Lloyd, Edmund and Theodore; Edward P., who is now living in Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Smith is a Republican in politics and has served his party as city councilman of Lake View for the past ten years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is also a member of the chapter, commandery and Mystic Shrine, at Des Moines, Iowa. He is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member, and contributes liberally to its support. Mr. Smith keeps well abreast of the times on all subjects, being a wide reader of current topics, and has the respect and esteem of all who know him for his friendly manner. He has keen business ability and is regarded by all as one of the most advanced and progressive citizens of his section of the state.

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## OLIVER JENSEN.

Successful men of Danish birth, or whose parents have been natives of this progressive European country and who have emigrated to western Iowa and become very prosperous as tillers of the soil, are much in evidence in this section of the country. Wherever they may be found they take front rank among the citizens of the various communities in which they reside. Oliver Jensen, substantial retired farmer of the town of Lake View, is the son of Danish parents who came to America and found fortune in the rich prairie lands of western Iowa and Sac county.

Oliver Jensen was born August 5, 1879, in Clinton county, Iowa, and

is the son of Olaf V. Jensen, who was born in 1836 and died in October of 1910. His mother's maiden name was Caroline Nicholson, who was born in June, 1836. Olaf and Caroline Jensen were both born on the small island of Fahr in the North sea and which was a Danish possession at that time. Here they were both reared and married. They came to America in 1865. Olaf V. was a sailor who followed the sea for fourteen years from the time he was fourteen years of age. At the time of the breaking out of the Civil War he was in the city of New Orleans. To avoid impressment in the Confederate service he sailed away from New Orleans on a lumber vessel bound for San Francisco and the Puget Sound region. He followed the western seas for some time thereafter and was engaged in sealing far up in the Bering sea. During his seaman's career in America he made several trips around Cape Horn and during his life he traveled or sailed entirely around the world. While a sailor he saved over nine hundred dollars in gold. With this small fortune he returned to the island of Fahr to get married and then brought his wife to America. He traveled westward by way of Chicago and after a stay of about three months in that city he located in Clinton county, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of partly improved land in 1866. He sold out his holdings in Clinton county in 1881 and came to Sac county, buying a half section of land in Boyer Valley township. After living here for some time, he went to Dixon county, Nebraska, and invested in two hundred and forty acres of land. Later he purchased another half section in Boyer Valley township and also one hundred and sixty acres in Cook township. He afterwards added three hundred and twenty acres in Delaware township to his extensive farm interests.

It is recorded that when he first contemplated a trip to Sac county his neighbors in Clinton county told him that the Indians would kill him and advised him not to venture northward, but he was desirous of getting hold of cheaper land in Sac county and future events showed the wisdom of his choice. At the time of his death he was the owner of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres in Sac county. In the spring of 1896 he removed to his second farm in Boyer Valley township and resided thereon until 1900, when he retired to the town of Early, where he died.

Olaf V. Jensen was the father of the following children: Oliver, the eldest; Charles, a farmer in Boyer Valley township; Mrs. Anna Struchen, of Boyer Valley township; Julius, deceased.

He of whom this review is written was educated in the common schools and was reared to farming as a vocation. When he became twenty-five

years of age he took charge of the home place in Boyer Valley township and cultivated his broad acres until March 1, 1912, when he moved his family to the town of Lake View and purchased a fine residence in the southeastern part of the town, on the shore of Wall lake. Mr. Jensen is the owner of a half section of well improved land in Boyer Valley township.

Mr. Jensen was married in September, 1895, to Ethel Russell, who was born and reared on a farm in Boyer Valley township, the daughter of Andrew and Neita Russell, the former a native of Ohio and the latter a native of Indiana. The father is now deceased and the mother lives in Washington. Mrs. Jensen is the mother of a family of eight children, as follows: Violet A., George Dewey, Sylvia Neita, Viola, Millard (deceased), Orian, Ellinor and Charlotte.

Mr. Jensen is interested in a financial way in the Early Concrete Stone Company, recently located in Lake View. He is politically allied with the Republican party and has filled various township offices. He is affiliated with the Presbyterian church and is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeoman. He is widely and favorably known for his geniality and his many sterling qualities which go far toward making a good and useful citizen in his adopted community.

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#### WASHINGTON McCARTER.

Among the prosperous retired farmers of Sac county, Washington McCarter is one who has played a prominent part in the upbuilding of his community. A man of excellent education and high ideals, he has been a benefit to the community in which he has lived. While he has been interested many years in advancing his own material interests, he has never forgotten the duty which he owes to his fellow citizens. He was born September 9, 1847, in Canada and is the son of Joseph and Phoebe (Hawley) McCarter. Joseph McCarter was born in 1821 in New York and died March 1, 1898; his wife, Phoebe Hawley, was born December 12, 1827, in Canada and is the daughter of Tina and Phoebe (Palmer) Hawley, natives respectively of Vermont and Delaware. The grandfather of Phoebe Palmer was Peter Brown, a Revolutionary soldier and a participant in the raid of John Brown at Osawatomie. Joseph McCarter left Canada in the year 1863 and located in Sac county, Iowa, where he lived until 1878. He then moved to Iowa county, where he died in 1898; his wife is now living with her son, Wash-

ington, in Lake View, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCarter were the parents of five children: Washington, with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Jessie Atkinson, of Iowa county; Van Daca, who died in Ohio in 1913; Alceste, deceased, and Phoebe, deceased.

Washington McCarter received his education in the schools of Canada and New York and taught school for several terms in Iowa when a young man. He came with his parents to Clinton county in 1863 and went with them to Iowa county in 1878. In 1888 he came to Sac county and located in Boyer Valley township, where he purchased eighty acres for seven dollars and fifty cents an acre. He sold this farm in 1900 and moved to a farm in the east end of Wall Lake. He paid thirty-six dollars an acre for the farm of one hundred acres and sold it in 1908 and moved into Lake View, where he has since continued to reside.

Mr. McCarter was married in 1887 to Anna Disterhoft, of Iowa county, and to this marriage have been born three children: Daca, a teacher of this county; Bertha, bookkeeper in a bank at Moville in Woodburn county, and Frances, a teacher in Sac county.

Politically, Mr. McCarter has been a life-long Democrat, but has never taken an active part in political affairs. Personally he is a man of pleasing address and kindly manner, who by his very presence inspires hope and contentment among his friends. His life has been marked by high purposes and a diligent devotion to duty. He is a man whom it is a pleasure to meet, being genial and straightforward, and a man whom to know is to trust and respect.

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### JOHN WESTROM.

The life history of some men contains enough interesting incidents to make a novel of several hundred pages in length. The history of some men who are living in Sac county would make a very readable romance. Given a small boy of fourteen years, with twenty-five cents in his pocket, with no knowledge of the English language, a total stranger in a strange land, but a boy with a clear brain and sound body, and with such a foundation, a good novelist would make a story which would rival "David Copperfield" or "John Halifax," two masterpieces of English fiction. The life history here presented is that of John Westrom, a native of Sweden and now a retired farmer of Lake View, Iowa.

John Westrom was born April 16, 1851, in Altsochen, Sweden, in the



state of Jarleborgslen. He is the son of Peter and Breta Westrom. Peter Westrom and wife were the parents of four children: Peter, of Lake View, Iowa; Olaf, of Stratford, Iowa; John, whose life history furnishes the theme for this narrative, and Eric, who died at the age of sixteen years. The father of these children died in 1852, leaving his widow with four young children.

John Westrom received a meager education in the land of his birth and when fourteen years of age joined a colony of two hundred people of his country, who came to America together, led by Reverend Belman. The second chapter of the interesting history of John Westrom opens when he landed in New York with twenty-five cents in his pocket. His history from that time to the year 1914 has been full of incidents, many of which are thrilling in character. He has arisen from absolute poverty to a place where he is now easily worth seventy-five thousand dollars, and yet some people wonder why America is called the Land of Opportunity. After landing in New York, John Westrom went with the rest of the colony to Illinois and located first at Galva, in Henry county, that state, where he worked at the tailor's trade for a year. His father had been a tailor and that was the only trade he knew sufficiently well at which he might obtain employment. After working at the tailor's trade for a year he began to work on a farm, and after a year of farm labor he began to work on the railroad. Thrift and economy were his watchwords from the beginning, because the young lad wanted to save enough money as soon as possible to bring his mother to this country with him. By 1867, only two years after he had landed here with twenty-five cents in his pocket, he had saved sufficient money to pay his mother's passage to Illinois. He and his mother then went to Chicago, where he worked for a wholesale grocery concern at No. 41 Wabash avenue, for the next nine years. Before he quit work in Chicago he had come to Sac county and bought eighty acres in Wall Lake township in 1877. In the spring of 1881 he permanently located on his farm and from that time forward has ranked as one of the prosperous farmers of Sac county. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres in Wall Lake township. The various additions to his land holdings are as follows: His first eighty acres cost him eleven dollars an acre; the second twenty, fifteen dollars an acre; the third one hundred, thirty-one dollars an acre and his final purchase of fifty acres cost fifty dollars an acre. The two hundred and eighty acres is now easily worth two hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre and is one of the best farms in the state of Iowa today. It is needless to say in this connection that he has been a successful farmer, for his standing today bears witness to the fact.

Mr. Westrom was married in 1876 to Anna C. Swanson, a native of Sweden and a resident of Chicago at the time of their marriage. To this union have been born seven children: Wesley, a farmer of Canada; Arthur C., who is now on his father's farm; Frank S., a farmer of Canada; Fred S., a farmer and coal operator of Alberta, Canada; Mrs. C. M. Butterfield, of Wetron, Alberta, Canada; Mrs. James Crawford, of Clear Lake, South Dakota, and Mabel, the wife of Reck Keck, of Sandy Point, Texas. Mr. Westrom owns one hundred and sixty acres in Alberta, Canada, and lived there one year.

One of the most interesting chapters of Mr. Westrom's life history is concerned with his trip to the Klondike region in 1898. This trip of six months contains more exciting experiences than falls to the lot of an ordinary man, and the historian regrets that he cannot do justice to this exciting chapter in the history of Mr. Westrom. He left Sac county in 1898 with five other men, and to this small company were added three more in Oregon. They met disaster before they reached Alaska, being shipwrecked on their way from Oregon and having to put in at Port Townsend for repairs. After reaching Alaska they had a terrible experience in making their way into the headwaters of Copper river. They prospected for three hundred and fifty miles and for three months slept on the snow every night. At one time they were snowed in with seven feet of snow and for seven days were in a perilous condition on the side of a mountain, not knowing any hour but that the next would be their last. At one time they saw the famous "red snow," which they came across on the top of a mountain. They climbed glaciers, scaled mountains, piled through snow drifts and yet lived to tell the tale. Mr. Westrom returned to Lake View after being gone six months, well satisfied to live the remainder of his days in Lake View, where glaciers come not and raging rivers are never seen. It is interesting to note here that Mr. Westrom has decided that his next vacation will be spent in Texas.

In politics, Mr. Westrom is a Republican, but he has always been content to serve as a private in the ranks of his party, never having been an aspirant for any public office. He and his family are members of the Congregational church and are interested in the increased usefulness of that church in their community. In 1906 Mr. Westrom moved to Lake View, where he purchased a residence, which he has since rebuilt and made it into a comfortable and convenient home. He is now taking life easy and is enjoying the fruits of his many years of hard work. Such is the life history of the poor immigrant boy of fourteen with twenty-five cents in his pocket, but with a heart which has never quailed and a hand never turned from honest labor.

## MAURICE D. RICH.

One of the many farmers of Sac county who have prospered in this fertile section is Maurice D. Rich, of Cedar township. He is recognized as one of the energetic farmers of Sac county, who, by his enterprise and progressive methods, has contributed in a material way to the agricultural development of the locality where he lives. He has followed farming during all of his life and has met with abundant success, due to the fact that he has used those good qualities of sound judgment and strict integrity which accompany the successful man.

Maurice D. Rich was born March 12, 1871, in Livingston county, Illinois, and is the son of John and Helen (Paddock) Rich. John Rich was born February 18, 1845, in Somersetshire, England. He came in the early fifties with his parents to this country and settled in Lake county, Illinois. Later the Rich family moved to Livingston county, in this state, and were among the pioneer settlers of that county. They now reside in Saunemin, Illinois. Mrs. John Rich had three brothers who were in the Civil War. To Mr. and Mrs. John Rich were born six children: Maurice D.; Mrs. Jennie Kimball, of Saunemin, Illinois; Mrs. Ada Spafford, of Saunemin, Illinois, whose husband is county supervisor; Arthur J., who is a builder and contractor in Chicago, living at Morgan Park; Mrs. Mayme Rhine-smith, of California, and Mrs. Agnes Riley, of Depue, Illinois.

M. D. Rich was reared and educated in Livingston county, Illinois, receiving a good common school education. At the age of seventeen years he passed an examination entitling him to a teacher's certificate, and at nineteen, the age required by law, he began teaching school, which he followed for five years. Upon reaching his majority he married and rented a farm in Livingston county, Illinois, on which he lived until the spring of 1903, when he located on two hundred and forty acres at Nemaha, Iowa, which he had previously purchased, and on March 1, 1911, moved to his present beautiful farm home in the east edge of Sac City. In the meantime he had bought and sold a number of farms and at present owns his home farm of ninety-three acres, where he resides, also a very choicely located farm in his native county in Illinois.

Mr. Rich was married in November, 1892, to Viola Carrithers. She was born near Lakin, Marshall county, Illinois, and was educated in the schools of Livingston and Marshall counties, that state, and Grand Prairie Seminary at Onarga, Illinois, after which she successfully taught school

for a number of years. Maurice and Viola Rich are the parents of five children, namely: Lela, a graduate of the Sac City high school; Merrill, Sinah and John, who are in high school, and Nellie, who has not reached school age. Mrs. Rich is the daughter of J. G. and Sinah (Wallace) Carrithers. James Carrithers was born November 3, 1844, near Sullivan, Indiana, and his wife was born in Greensburg, Indiana. They are both now living in Livingston county, Illinois, near Saunemin. They are the parents of the following children: Mrs. Viola Rich; Mrs. Nellie Mitchell, of Saunemin, Illinois; Prof. Harry W. Carrithers, of Walkerton, Indiana; Prof. Ira T. Carrithers, of Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In politics, Mr. Rich has identified himself with the Progressive wing of the Republican party. He and his family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an active part in such interests as are allied with that denomination. Mr. Rich has devoted his lifetime to the agricultural profession and has met with success commensurate with his efforts. He is practical in his work and gives his personal attention to every detail of his farm work, with the result that he has an enviable standing in the community, because of his ability and success in his chosen vocation.

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### ALDEN ARMSTRONG.

It is the progressive, wide-awake man of affairs that makes the real history of a community, and his influence as a potential factor in the body politic is difficult to estimate. The examples such men furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish, and there is always a full measure of satisfaction in adverting, even in a casual way, to their achievements in advancing their own interests and those of their fellow men and giving strength and solidity to the institutions which make so much for the prosperity of the community. Such a man is Alden Armstrong, a stock dealer and business man of Lake View, Sac county, Iowa, and it is eminently proper that a review of his interesting career be accorded a place among the representative citizens of Sac county.

Alden Armstrong, a prosperous stock dealer of Lake View, Iowa, was born in Canada, August 24, 1853. He is the son of Platt and Amelia (McCarter) Armstrong, the former being the founder of Lake View. Amelia McCarter was the daughter of Robert McCarter, of St. Lawrence county, New York. Platt Armstrong left Canada in May, 1854, with his family and





MRS. EMMA ARMSTRONG



ALDEN ARMSTRONG





settled at Lost Nation, Clinton county, Iowa, where his wife died within a short time. Alden Armstrong was reared in Clinton county and in the fall of 1874 he left Clinton county in company with another man on a well-digging expedition. However, they could find no work to do, so his partner took the team back to Clinton county and Mr. Armstrong took the train from Cedar Rapids and stopped at Ogden, Iowa. Shortly after this he entered the employ of Joseph Gorham, of Odebolt, and worked for him about six weeks. He then went to work on the Wheeler farm and later spent a short time in Ida county. By this time he had become convinced of the value of farming land in Sac county, and wrote his father, asking for financial assistance in locating land in this county. With his father's help, he bought all of section 13 in Clinton township, for which he paid six dollars and sixty-five cents an acre. In the spring of 1875 Mr. Armstrong came back to Sac county, after wintering in his old home county, and, with the assistance of Oran Haskins, broke up one hundred and forty acres of land on his Sac county farm. In the fall of 1875 Alden Armstrong and his father came from Clinton county to Sac county and built a house, but returned to Clinton county for the winter. In February of 1876 Mr. Armstrong married and in the spring returned to Sac county, where he has continued to reside up to the present time. He had to haul his lumber from West Side, Crawford county, and, since there were no roads at that time, he had to haul it by way of the old Levey bridge. For five years he worked on this farm, then his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of the land, and at the same time gave one hundred and sixty acres to each of his other sons. Mr. Armstrong lived on his farm for twelve years, when he sold it for ten thousand dollars and moved to Lake View in 1887. Upon removing to Lake View, Mr. Armstrong engaged in the grain and live stock business. He continued to follow both lines until 1900, when he disposed of his grain business and devoted all of his attention to his live stock trade. He has also been interested in the hardware and automobile business in Lake View and is also one of the stockholders and directors of the Lake View State Bank.

Mr. Armstrong was married February 24, 1876, to Emma G. Pollack, of Grundy county, Missouri, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pollack. To this union have been born two children, Lillian and Claude P. Claude P., who is in the automobile business in Lake View, is married and has three children, Alden, Velma and Robert Allie.

Mr. Armstrong was a Republican up until June, 1912, when he left the old party and joined the new Progressive party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and is a Mystic Shriner of Sioux

City, Iowa. He is also a Knight Templar at Sac City. Mr. Armstrong has lived nearly forty years in this county, and has seen it grow from a broad expanse of prairie to its present thriving and prosperous condition. He recalls the time when he shot as many as fifteen deer at one time in the vicinity of Wall lake. When he came here the country was all unimproved, and his house was the first one built between his site and Sac City. His house is built on the divide between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Mr. Armstrong has so ordered his course at all times as to command the confidence and regard of the people of his community. He is a man who has always followed the most conscientious methods in his business dealings, and has never neglected to advocate whatever he felt would promote the public welfare of his locality in any way.

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#### WILLIAM PITSTICK.

In this volume there are many biographies of farmers who were either born in Germany, or the descendants of parents who came from that country, and there is not one of the many German families who have settled in this county who have not prospered in this favored region of the United States. No one of them has used better judgment and attained to a more substantial prosperity than William Pitstick, a prominent farmer of Jackson township, this county. Success has attended him at every turn and in all of his ventures he has shown that rare judgment and good business acumen which characterizes the successful man. The thrift which characterized his ancestors is strikingly present in his make-up, and yet, while he has been advancing his own material interests, he has not overlooked the duty which he owes to his county and state as a member of the body politic. He has identified himself with various public enterprises and in each has contributed his share to the bringing about of better conditions.

William Pitstick was born April 12, 1865, in Illinois, the son of John and Frances (Billingsfeldt) Pitstick. John Pitstick was born in December, 1836, in Germany, and died in Calhoun county, Iowa, in December, 1912, while his wife, Frances Anna Billingsfeldt, was born in Germany in December, 1841, and died in Calhoun county, this state, in April, 1913. When William was eleven months of age his parents moved to Polk county, Iowa, from Illinois, where they lived seventeen years. The family then moved to Calhoun county, this state, where John Pitstick became a prosperous and substantial farmer, accumulating four hundred and eighty acres of excellent

farming land. Mr. and Mrs. John Pitstick were the parents of ten children: Charles, of Calhoun county, Iowa; Louisa, deceased; Frances, of Rockwell City, this state; William, with whom this narrative deals; Lizzie and Emma, both deceased; John, of Calhoun county; Ella, of Sac City; Edward, who is living in Indiana, and Mrs. Josephine Clark, of Jackson township.

William Pitstick received his education in the Polk county, Iowa, schools, remaining with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age. In 1890 he had bought a farm in Calhoun county, near Lake City, but sold this tract later. In 1891 he bought one hundred and seventy acres in Scott county, Iowa, on which he resided for eleven years. In 1902 he came to Sac county and bought two hundred and twenty acres of exceptionally good land in Coon Valley township, paying sixty-five dollars an acre for the land. Some time later he sold eighty acres of this tract for seventy dollars an acre. In 1909 he moved to Sac City in order to give his children the benefit of the excellent schools of that city. His farm of one hundred acres in Jackson township lies within the corporate limits of Sac City, and on this he has lived since 1909. He paid one hundred and ten dollars an acre for this land, and it is now easily worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre, although it is not for sale at any price. This farm overlooks the valley of Coon river and it is one of the finest improved farms in the county. It has a handsome residence on it and excellent buildings of all kinds, which are set in attractively kept grounds. In addition to this farm, Mr. Pitstick is the owner of one hundred and forty-eight acres in Coon Valley township, and has an interest in two hundred acres in Minnesota.

Mr. Pitstick was married on March 3, 1889, to Helen Snider, of Scott county. She is the daughter of Ephraim and Eliza Jane (Randall) Snider, who were natives of New York and Maine, respectively, and pioneers of Scott county, of this state. Both her parents are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Pitstick are the parents of seven children: Mrs. Janie Mendenhall, a graduate of the high school at Sac City and a student of the Teachers' College in Cedar Falls, this state. She was a former teacher in the public school of Sac City; May, a graduate of the high school and a teacher; Mrs. Frances Mendenhall, also a graduate of the high school, now lives in Cedar township, this county; Henry, a graduate of the high school and now a student in I. C. S.; Nellie and Virgil, who are students in the high school at Sac City; Ruth, the youngest, who finishes the eighth grade this year; Scott is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Pistick are justly proud of their fine children, and have sought to give them the advantage of the best education possible and it is a satisfaction to the parents to know that their children have taken

advantage of the opportunity given them and have equipped themselves to become useful members of society. When the three younger children get through the high school, there will have been seven children of the same family graduated from the same high school, a record which doubtless cannot be duplicated any place in the state of Iowa, if any state in the Union.

Mr. Pitstick has been engaged in various enterprises besides his agricultural interests, having been one of the originators and leading promoters of the Farmers Elevator Company of Sac City. In fact, he was the founder of the company, and it was his plan which, carried into execution, has made the company the prosperous firm which it is today. He is a stockholder in the Sac County Fair Association and is now superintendent of the horse department. Mr. Pitstick is a man of keen business judgment and every organization with which he has been connected has found in him one who quickly comprehends the intricate features of the business in hand and suggests ways whereby the business can be increased. Politically, Mr. Pitstick is a Republican, but has been so busy with his many interests that he has not had time to engage to any great extent in politics. However, he keeps well posted on the current issues of the day and takes an intelligent interest in the political questions before the American people. Religiously, the family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and to this denomination they contribute of their time and substance. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Owing to his splendid success, his genuine worth and his genial disposition, Mr. Pitstick easily wins friends and always retains them. He enjoys a marked degree of popularity in the locality where so many of his years have been spent.

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#### GEORGE W. MENDENHALL.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch the writer aims to avoid fulsome ecomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well defined purpose. To do this will be to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people who have known him long and well.

George W. Mendenhall, a retired farmer of Sac City, Iowa, being a former resident of Cedar township, was born in Butler county, Ohio, March 1, 1860. His parents were W. B. and Mary Ellen (Neff) Mendenhall. His father, W. B., was born in Preble county, Ohio, of English ancestry, in 1834, and his mother was born in Ohio in 1841 and died in March, 1909. W. B. Mendenhall and family left Ohio in about 1883 and, after stopping for two years in Illinois, located in Rice county, Kansas, where W. B. Mendenhall is still living. W. B. Mendenhall and wife were the parents of five children, who are living: Charles M., of Lyons, Kansas; Joseph O., of Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. E. G. Schenck, of Sac county, Iowa; Mrs. Effie Mason, of Hutchinson, Kansas, and George W., whose history is portrayed in this connection.

George W. Mendenhall was educated in the public schools of Butler county, Ohio, and when twenty-one years of age left home to seek his fortune. He went to Illinois and located in Macon county, where he rented a farm and also engaged in the hardware and furniture business in Macon county. Shortly after he came to Macon county, Illinois, his parents also moved there. In 1907 Mr. Mendenhall moved to Sac county, Iowa, and bought two hundred and forty acres in Cedar township, for which he paid sixty-four dollars an acre. Later he bought forty acres adjoining this farm, at eighty dollars an acre, and now has two hundred and eighty acres of fine land in Cedar township. In 1911 he erected a fine residence, and in the seven years in which he has lived in this township he has built a barn and has done a large amount of fencing and draining. The land in Cedar township, in order to be the most productive, demands scientific drainage and, since coming to this farm, Mr. Mendenhall has spent over two thousand dollars in tiling and considers the money well spent. His land has rapidly increased in value and is now worth at least two hundred dollars an acre. In November, 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Mendenhall left the farm in charge of their sons, Harry and Ralph, and moved to Sac City, where they purchased a fine residence.

George W. Mendenhall was married in 1886 to Laura Schenck, of Macon county, Illinois, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Schenck. Mr. and Mr. Mendenhall have seven children, all of whom are living: Harry and Ralph are managing their father's farm; Glen is in the schools at Sac City; Grace, Fern and Bernadine are still with their parents, and Iva married F. G. Hall and lives northeast of Lytton, in this county.

Mr. Mendenhall has always allied himself with the Republican party and, while taking a deep interest in local politics, yet has never been a candi-

date for any public office. He and the members of his family are regular attendants at the Methodist Episcopal church and give it their earnest support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Order of the Eastern Star, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Daughters of Rebekah, the Knights of Pythias, the Rathborne Sisters and the Improved Order of Red Men. Mr. Mendenhall is a quiet, plain and kind-hearted man, respected by all who know him, and one who has always been regarded as honest and upright in all his dealings. Personally, he is a pleasant man to meet, affable, obliging and a man who is esteemed wherever he is known for his many good qualities.

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J. H. LOW.

It is a well attested maxim that the greatness of a community or a state lies not in the machinery of government nor even in its institutions, but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen, in his capacity for high and unselfish effort and his devotion to the public welfare. In these particulars he whose name appears at the head of this review has conferred honor and dignity upon his locality, and as an elemental part of history it is consonant that there should be recorded a resume of his career, with the object in view of noting his connection with the advancement of one of the most flourishing and progressive sections of the commonwealth.

J. H. Low, a retired farmer of Douglas township, Sac county, Iowa, was born July 15, 1850, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents were William and Sarah (Chapman) Low, natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, respectively. William Low was born in 1818 and died in 1891. His father was John Low, an uncle of the Hon. Seth Low, former mayor of New York City. The Lows were all seafaring men, and William followed the sea until he was thirty-seven years of age. He then settled in Philadelphia, where he was in the employ of a chemical company for thirteen years. Later he came to Indiana and settled in New Albany, where he engaged in the commercial business until 1869, then settled in Carroll county, Illinois, where he died in 1891. Sarah Chapman, the mother of J. H. Low, was born in Pennsylvania in 1822, of Quaker parentage, the daughter of John Chapman, who was a captain in the Revolutionary War. She died in 1902 in Marshalltown, Iowa, at the home of her son.

Mr. and Mrs. William Low were the parents of six children: James,



deceased; William, deceased; John H., whose history is delineated in this connection; Charles G., of Burlington, Iowa; Thomas P., of Marshalltown, Iowa, and Eliza D., deceased.

J. H. Low was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania, but never attended school after he was nine years of age. When he was nineteen he began railroading, with his headquarters at Louisville, Kentucky, was rapidly promoted because of his efficient work and was soon a conductor on the Louisville & Nashville Railway, a position which he held for ten years. In 1879 he came to Carroll county, Illinois, and hired out as a farm laborer, where he worked for seven years. He then began farming for himself, and in 1884 moved to Marshall county, Iowa, where he bought a farm. This he sold two years later and went to Sioux county and located at Hawarden. In 1889 Mr. Low came to Calhoun county and in the following year came to Sac county and bought a farm in Douglas township for twenty-six and a half dollars an acre. He sold this farm in the fall of 1913 for one hundred and thirty-seven and a half dollars an acre, clearing one hundred and ten dollars an acre on his investment. He then purchased a home in Sac City, moved his family there and is now retired from active work. He is a stockholder and one of the most influential directors in the Sac County Fair Association. He still holds two hundred and eighty acres in Douglas township, which he rents.

Mr. Low was married in 1877 to Sophia E. Kingry, of Mt. Carroll, Illinois. To this marriage have been born four sons: Jesse W., an automobile dealer of Sac City; William, who is living on a farm in Jackson township; Charles G., a farmer in South Dakota; Harry, a banker and automobile dealer in Lytton. Mr. Low has recently invested in considerable property in Sac City and has become interested in the automobile business, conducted by his son. He has assisted him financially and has had the justification of seeing his son prosper in this line of business. All of Mr. Low's sons proved to be successful business men and have made good wherever they have located. Mr. and Mrs. Low take a great deal of interest in their sons and are naturally proud of their achievements.

In politics, Mr. Low is an independent voter, preferring to cast his vote for the best man in all cases, irrespective of political affiliations. He is a fine type of an ever-increasing number of American citizens who vote for the best men. Fraternally, Mr. Low is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Low has attained his present success because of his natural ability, industry and honesty, and although he has encountered many obstacles in the course of his long career, yet he has overcome them all and today looks back over a career that has been well spent in every particular.

## COL. WILLIAM C. LOOKINGBILL.

The careers of self-made and successful men all abound with lessons from which those of the present rising generation can take comfort and profit. It is by no means an easy task to describe within the limits of this all too brief review a man who has led an active and eminently useful life and by his own individual exertions reached a position of honor and trust in the line of the profession and industry with which his interests are closely allied. But biography finds justification in the tracing and recording of the salient facts of such a life history, inasmuch as the public claims a certain proprietary interest in the career of every individual and the time invariably arrives when it becomes advisable to give the right publicity. It is, then, with considerable satisfaction that the biographer enters upon the writing of the biography of Col. W. C. Lookingbill, eminent auctioneer and breeder of fine live stock, who, from a humble beginning, has achieved a reputation little short of marvelous in the short space of time given him to accomplish his ambition and secure a place in the body politic as a successful man among a host of successful citizens in this wonderfully developed community. Colonel Lookingbill resides in one of the most beautiful homes in the eastern portion of a city noted for its attractive environs and handsome structures. Years ago, when he first came to Sac City to win fortune and renown, he was attracted by the features of a beautiful stretch of woodland elevated in such a manner as to provide an unexcelled setting for a home. This land was then owned by Judge Criss, who at first refused to consider an offer. It was Colonel Lookingbill's good fortune, however, to eventually become the owner of this desirable property, which consists of fifty-seven and five-tenths acres of land. He erected his home at the brow of a bluff overlooking the fair grounds and the city. This tract is part of his original purchase of sixty acres and has steadily risen in value since his purchase of the tract for one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre in 1908. His farm and home are within the corporation limits of Sac City. A large and modern barn is located in the rear and to the east of the residence with other buildings suitably grouped. He is a well-known breeder of pure bred Shorthorn cattle, Poland China swine and Shropshire sheep. His stock is practically all registered as thoroughbreds. Once each month Colonel Lookingbill conducts a great sale of live stock on his place, which is largely attended and patronized by the neighboring stockmen.

W. C. Lookingbill was born in the year 1873 on a farm in Guthrie county. He had the advantages of a fair public school education and graduated from the high school when still a youth, following up his educational advantages



COL. WILLIAM C. LOOKINGBILL.



by graduating from Guthrie College in June, 1890. He followed farming in his home county until 1893 when he located in Calhoun county. In 1895 he came to Sac county and purchased a small farm in Cedar township on time, investing his savings in an initial payment. He met with serious misfortune during his first year and found himself reduced to penury, with no means of going on with his farming operations. He rented out his land for the season and went in search of employment. Jobs were scarce, but he eventually succeeded in obtaining a job with Mr. Robbins, who was then engaged in the erection of an addition to his mill. During the first week he received the munificent sum of fifty cents per day; the second week he demanded one dollar per day and received it; in the third week his wages were advanced to one dollar and fifty cents per day. So well did he satisfy his employer, who had at first scoffed at his inability to earn living wages, that he was placed on a salary of one dollar and seventy-five cents per day for the remainder of his term of employment under Mr. Robbins. This labor eventually enabled him to regain his feet financially, and his aggressiveness and tireless dynamic industry have pushed him to the front. In May of 1900 he purchased a small farm in the south part of Sac City for two thousand dollars, which proved to be an excellent investment. In 1909 he removed to his present location after he had erected his handsome home.

Mr. Lookingbill's birth occurred February 13, 1873, as aforesaid, in Guthrie county. He is the son of Henry Lookingbill, a native of the state of Maryland and who was born in March, 1836. His mother is Elizabeth Holt Lookingbill, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1837. The Lookingbill family first migrated to Illinois, and later became very early settlers in Guthrie county, Iowa. The family is highly regarded in the community in which they reside. Henry is a strong, virile personage, noted in his younger days for his great strength and wonderful powers of endurance. His greatest heritage bequeathed to his son has been an excellent physique and like powers of endurance.

It is as a professional auctioneer that he of whom this is recorded has best excelled. In December of 1905 he graduated from the famous school of auctioneering in the city of Davenport, Iowa, which school is now located in Chicago. Colonel Lookingbill's success in his chosen profession has been phenomenal, when one considers the short period of time which he has devoted to the exercise of his attainments in a profession which calls for accurate judgment, a wide knowledge of agriculture, and a keen discernment of the values of live stock such as is necessary for a successful sale crier to possess. His

field is practically unlimited and his services are in demand in Iowa, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota. His specialty when called away from his home county is in conducting pure bred horse sales, in which difficult vocation he is widely known as an expert. In politics he is a Republican; religiously, he is a Presbyterian, and is, fraternally, allied with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Mystic Workers.

Colonel Lookingbill was united in marriage with Luella McDermott, of Buena Vista county, Iowa, December 1, 1898, and is the father of two children, Lillian Ellen and Llewelyn McHenry Lookingbill. His farm is appropriately named "Oakland Stock Farm."

Mr. Lookingbill is a strong man, physically, mentally and morally, who has never known the taste of tobacco or strong drink in any form. His standing in the community is of the highest and he is known widely and favorably for his enterprise and public spirit. It is the records of such men as he that add value to these memoirs of Sac county.

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#### DUNCAN B. KEIR.

All callings, whether humble or exalted, may be productive of some measure of success, if enterprise and industry, coupled with a well-directed purpose, form the motive force of the person directing the same, and in no case is this fact more apparent than in agricultural pursuits. It is a well authenticated fact that success comes as the result of legitimate and well applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance as well as the above enumerated qualities. When a course of action is once decided upon these attributes are essential. Success is never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer and she never courts the loafer, only those who have diligently sought her favor being crowned with her blessings. In tracing the history of the prosperous and influential agriculturist whose name forms the caption of this biographical review, we find that the above named elements have entered largely into his make-up and therefore we are not surprised at the large and ever-growing success which he has attained.

Duncan B. Keir, one of the most prosperous farmers of Douglas township, Sac county, Iowa, was born October 22, 1849, in Dalesville, Canada, about sixty miles northwest of Montreal. His parents were John and Helen (McGregor) Keir, both of whom were of Scotch descent. John Keir was born in Canada in 1813, the son of John Keir, who came from

Scotland to that country. Helen McGregor was the daughter of John McGregor, a native of Scotland and a member of the McGregor clan of the Highland region. Mrs. Keir traces her ancestry back to Rob Roy, of historic fame. Mr. and Mrs. John Keir were the parents of twelve children and also reared one adopted child, and six of these children are living: Robert, of Aspen, Colorado; Duncan B.; William, of Okemah, Oklahoma; Charles, of Madison, Colorado; Mrs. Elizabeth Dashler, of Wellington, Kansas, and Thomas G., of Sac City, this state. The adopted daughter is Mrs. Margaret Morton, of Oxford, Kansas. The deceased children are Peter, James, Helen, John and Roy.

Duncan B. Keir came to Illinois when he was eighteen years of age and settled in Livingston county in 1867, and there he lived until 1883, then went to Wellington, Kansas, where he resided until 1889. He was a blacksmith by trade and followed his profession in these different places, meeting with a large measure of success. He saved his money with the idea of investing it in western land, and came to Sac county, Iowa, on October 1, 1889, where he bought three hundred and twenty acres in Douglas township, the old Lee homestead, at thirty-five dollars an acre. He improved this and later added one hundred and sixty acres in Delaware township in 1896 at twenty-four dollars an acre, and is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres, three hundred and twenty acres in Douglas township and one hundred and sixty acres in Delaware township. His farms are well improved with a good dwelling, large and commodious barns, good fences and extensive drainage. In 1913 he raised on his farm twenty-eight head of horses, fifty head of cattle and eighty head of hogs, besides fine crops of grain.

Mr. Keir was married in 1877 to Lizzie Sackett, of Fairburg, Illinois, who died in 1883, leaving one son, Roy, who is now living at Spencer, Iowa. He is married and has two children, Robert MacArthur and Hazel. Mr. Keir was married the second time on November 20, 1887, to Chloe Lanora Lee, who was born in the home where she now lives on August 3, 1863, the daughter of Melitus S. and Caroline (Travis) Lee. To his second marriage have been born two children, Lamont, of Ida Grove, Iowa, and Mrs. Hazel Abernathy, of Nemaha, Iowa, who has one child, Maxine. Mrs. Keir has resided all of her life in this county, her parents being among the others Republicans, voted for Woodrow Wilson in 1912, because he thought Mr. Wilson was the best man for the presidency. It takes courage for a

Mr. Keir is a Republican in politics nominally, but, like thousands of early settlers of the county.



man to break away from his old party and vote his convictions, and the men who do are to be congratulated upon their good judgment and high ideals of what citizenship really means. The Keir family adhere to the Baptist church and render it their earnest support. Mr. Keir is a man who has been a hard worker all of his life and now, in his declining years, can look back over a life which has been spent in the service of his fellow man. He can feel that he has never wronged any one of his fellow citizens, but has tried to live up to the Golden Rule in all of his dealings. During his career in this county he has lived an upright and wholesome life, which has won for him the esteem and commendation of all those with whom he comes into contact.

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### ELMER COX.

The history of him whose name heads this biographical sketch is closely identified with the history of Sac county, Iowa, which has long been his home. He began his career in this locality and throughout the subsequent years he has been closely allied with its interests and upbuilding. His life has been one of untiring activity and has been crowned with a degree of success commensurate with his efforts. He is of the highest type of progressive citizens and none more than he deserves a fitting recognition among those whose enterprises and ability have achieved results that have awakened the admiration of those who knew them. The cause of humanity never had a truer friend than Elmer Cox, and in all the relations of life—family, church, state and society—he has displayed that consistent Christian spirit that natural worth, that has endeared him to all classes. His integrity and fidelity have been manifested in every relation of life, an example which has been an inspiration to others, and his influence has been felt in the community honored by his citizenship.

Elmer Cox, a prosperous farmer near Sac City, Cedar township, Iowa, was born July 22, 1867, in Missouri. His parents are Clark and Mary (Howard) Cox, both of whom are now living in Sac City.

Mr. Cox was educated in the country schools of Polk county, Iowa, to which county his parents moved the year after his birth. After receiving a good common school education, he continued to work on his father's farm in Polk county until 1885, when he came to Sac county and began farming for himself. He first rented land in Coon Valley township and later bought one hundred and sixty-four acres in Calhoun county, giving his first pay-

ment of four hundred dollars and giving a mortgage for the rest of it. An indication of his success as a farmer is shown by the fact that in nine years he had earned enough off his farm to entirely liquidate the debt which was accrued in the purchase of the farm. He continued to live on this farm of one hundred and sixty-four acres until 1898, when he rented it until March, 1910. Then he sold it for ninety-five dollars an acre. In 1898 he rented his farm near Sac City until 1910, in which year, immediately after selling his Calhoun county farm, he bought his present farm of ninety acres, near Sac City, for which he paid one hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents an acre. His farm is well improved in every way, with fine buildings, excellent woven wire fencing and a fine system of underground drainage. Here Mr. Cox raises all of the crops peculiar to this latitude and also raises a considerable amount of small fruit.

Mr. Cox was married in 1906 to Minnie Young, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Young. Politically, Mr. Cox is a Democrat and is a firm believer in the principles enunciated by President Wilson. Although he takes an active interest in politics, he has never been a candidate for any public office. He has always felt that his agricultural duties were such as to demand his entire attention. He has always tried to measure up to the standard of correct manhood, and this locality is proud to number him among its progressive and representative residents.

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### ROBERT D. BECHLER.

There are individuals in nearly every community who, by reason of pronounced ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the mass and command the unbounded esteem of their fellow men. Characterized by perseverance and a directing spirit, two virtues that never fail, such men always make their presence felt and the vigor of their strong personality serves as a stimulus and incentive to the young and rising generation. To this energetic and enterprising class the subject of this brief review very properly belongs. Having never been seized with the roaming desires that have led many of Sac county's young men to other fields of endeavor and other states, where they have sought their fortunes, Mr. Bechler has devoted his life to industries at home and has succeeded remarkably well, as may be seen by a study of his life history.

Robert D. Bechler, one of the most successful farmers of Douglas

township, Sac county, was born on June 15, 1856, in Union county, Pennsylvania. His parents, George and Hannah (Yohn) Bechler, were both natives of that state and moved to Illinois in an early day, settling in Jo Daviess county in 1866. Wishing to take advantage of cheaper as well as better land, they went to Iowa and settled in Douglas township, Sac county, where the parents both died. George Bechler died in 1905 and his wife in 1913.

Robert D. Bechler was twenty-four years of age when he began to farm for himself. First he rented land for four years, and by thrift and frugality he saved his money, so that he was able to invest in land of his own. He first purchased one hundred and sixty acres adjoining his present farm, in the spring of 1882, for which he paid twelve dollars an acre. In 1885 he bought an additional one hundred and sixty acres, which cost him thirty dollars an acre. This land he has improved in such a way as to enhance its value many fold, as well as to increase its productivity in every way. Mr. Bechler is recognized as one of the most successful farmers in Sac county, for the reason that he is fully abreast of the times in all agricultural lines. He is quick to make use of the latest machinery to assist in his farming operations and never fails to take advantage of the most improved methods for increasing his crop production. He also raises a large amount of cattle and hogs annually, which makes a substantial part of his yearly income. He has invested in a handsome residence in Sac City, near the center of the town, in addition to his farm property.

Mr. Bechler was married April 22, 1883, to Emma Heller, the daughter of S. S. and Catherine (Miller) Heller, who was born in the state of Pennsylvania, as were her parents, and came to Iowa in 1873, when she was seven years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Bechler are the parents of eight sons and one daughter: Guy W., born in 1883; Omer R., born February 16, 1884, deceased; Wallace R., born January 23, 1887, who lives in Sac City; Roy D., born June 4, 1889; Catherine R., born September 11, 1892; Lloyd M., born January 14, 1899; George S., born February 23, 1902; Julian, born December 26, 1905, and Marvin M., born December 19, 1907.

Mr. Bechler is a Republican in politics, but confines his political activity to the casting of his ballot for his party's candidates on election day, as his interests have been so many and varied that he has not had time to take an active part in the political game. The Bechler family are Presbyterians in faith, and contribute liberally of their substance to the support of that denomination. Mr. Bechler has attained to a prominent place as a farmer and public-spirited citizen of the county, because he has never neglected an op-

portunity to identify himself with all those influences which make for a better community. His interest in public affairs and the honest methods which he has pursued since he has become a resident of this county have naturally won for him the esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### HENRY W. ROGERS.

The methods followed by Henry W. Rogers, farmer and stock raiser of Douglas township, Sac county, Iowa, are those which ever insure ultimate success: they are the methods of an up-to-date tiller of the soil and a man who believes in relentlessly pursuing those ideals and principles which bring not only material success, but which are calculated to redound in various blessings. He seems to be most loyal to this, his adopted state, and has never been known to refuse to support all worthy movements looking to the general good of the community in which he has cast his lot. He has therefore made many lasting friends here.

Henry W. Rogers, one of the prosperous farmers of Douglas township, this county, was born July 24, 1859, in Jefferson county, Wisconsin. His parents were Nathaniel and Mary (Rief) Rogers. Nathaniel was a native of Ohio and of New England descent. Mary Rief was a native of Switzerland, and came to the United States in the early fifties, the mother settling in Douglas township, Sac county, Iowa, in 1872. They were the parents of three children: Harrison, of Newell, Iowa; Mrs. Orville Lee, of Sac City, Iowa, and Henry W., of whom this chronicle speaks. Nathaniel Rogers died in Wisconsin in 1865, and the mother later married E. A. Knapp, and she died in 1910 in Sac county.

Henry W. Rogers received his common school education in Wisconsin and when he was thirteen years of age he accompanied his parents to this county. At the age of twenty-two he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Delaware township, this county, for which he paid five dollars an acre. In 1883 he bought eighty acres in Douglas township for sixteen dollars an acre and one hundred and sixty acres in 1890 at twenty dollars an acre, and he now has a total of four hundred acres of fine land in Douglas and Delaware townships, in this county, which he manages. Since 1890 he has lived in Sac City, but still takes an active interest in his farming operations and superintends its management. He raises all of the crops peculiar to this locality and no farmer in the county gets better results from the soil than

Mr. Rogers. He has improved his farm in every way by erecting buildings, putting up fences and installing an extensive system of drainage.

Mr. Rogers was married on September 7, 1884, to May N. Pierce, who is a native of Nevada, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Pierce. The Pierce family settled in Sac county, Iowa, in 1865, and Mr. Pierce died in Louisiana in 1909. To Mr. and Mrs. Rogers has been born one child, Howard, an attorney, born in 1885, a graduate of the Sac City high school, and Coe College of Cedar Rapids, and a graduate in the law department of Yale University; he is now a resident of Omaha, Nebraska. Howard married, in 1911, Catherine Fantz, of Nevada, Iowa, a graduate of Coe College, Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Rogers is a Republican in politics, but his extensive farming interests have claimed his attention to such an extent that he has not felt it convenient to indulge in the game of politics. He and his wife are loyal and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and render it substantial assistance. Mr. Rogers has taken an active part in the community life of Sac City and has impressed his individuality upon his fellow citizens in such a way as to gain their confidence and esteem.

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#### MARTIN SHELEY.

All values are based upon land. It is the inevitable beginning of all wealth and its productiveness is the source of all income and in the inherent capabilities of the land to provide the necessities of life lies the prosperity of the nation. Land investment is attracting more people today than ever before. Real estate is the best security of all. It shows the largest profit when selected carefully. More men have acquired a competence through wise land investments than in any other manner. Land values have grown rapidly within the last decade in this section of this great country. He who has possessed the foresight and acumen to continually invest his profits in more and more land is today counted among the wealthy and prosperous citizens of this vicinity. This chronicle abounds with tales of men who came from the Eastern sections, with no means at hand but their willing hands and brains and have accomplished results which are well nigh astounding, when one considers the brief span of years in which they have been actively engaged in developing the country. A striking example of what determined energy and grit, combined with good business acumen can accomplish, is the career of Martin Sheley, whose name heads this review.



MRS. MARY VIRGINIA SHELLEY



MARTIN SHELLEY





Martin Sheley is a native of the old Buckeye state, and was born on a farm in Fayette county, Ohio, September 1, 1843. His father was Samuel Sheley, a native of Ohio. His mother was Margaret Sesler, a native of Pennsylvania and the daughter of German parents. In 1856 the family migrated from Ohio to a farm in Poweshiek county, Iowa, and near the town of Montezuma. Here they made their home and the family was reared to young manhood and womanhood. The father died April 6, 1860. Some years afterward, while Martin was in the far West, the mother departed to the great beyond.

Martin Sheley responded to the need of his country for defenders of the Union and enlisted in the Union army, February 16, 1864, and served fifteen months. He was a member of Company C, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry Regiment, and took an active part in sixteen engagements during the brief period of his service. He fought in three great battles, Winchester, Cedar Creek and Snicker's Gap. He was a member of the famous Red River expedition. He was wounded in the right foot during the battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia. The right foot was struck by a portion of a bursting shell and he was permanently disabled for the remainder of his life by the loss of a portion of the foot. After his return from the war, he resided in Poweshiek county and was there engaged in farming until the year 1877. He then came to Sac county and purchased one hundred acres of good land in Cook township, paying therefor the sum of five dollars and fifty cents per acre. This was raw, unbroken prairie land at the time of his purchase. He at once erected a small house and set about improving his land, on which he resided until 1900. In that year he removed to another farm of three hundred and twenty acres located north of the town of Schaller, of which he was the owner and which he bought with his savings in 1881. Here he made his residence until 1905, when he removed permanently to Schaller, where he has a fine modern residence fitted with every comfort and convenience.

Mr. Sheley is the owner of one thousand three hundred and eighty-five acres of land in Sac county, all of which is good, tillable land of the best and richest quality, and noted for its high productive capacity. He began practically with nothing thirty-six years ago, and it is truly remarkable what he has accomplished when one considers that since the Civil War he has been seriously handicapped by physical misfortune which would have caused many men to retire earlier and attempt to live upon the bounty of the government. He purchased his first tract of land in May, 1877, on the payment plan. During his first season he made his first payment and stocked up the place, erected a small house which was later succeeded by a more pretentious resi-

dence. He has practically specialized in the production of live stock and his fortune has been earned by the exercise of good judgment in this important occupation and the power of discernment in buying and selling at the proper times. He is rated as one of the wealthiest citizens of Sac county. At the present time he is doing his part in relieving the congestion of population in Schaller and building a number of houses to serve as places of residence for new comers desiring to locate here. He could choose no better way to invest his surplus capital. While Mr. Sheley has attained the age of three score years and ten, he is really seventy years young, being as active and spry as most men at fifty.

Mr. Sheley is a Republican in politics, has never sought nor held office and has confined his activities solely to his farming and stock-raising industry. He is a member of the Methodist church, and is affiliated fraternally with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Sheley was joined in holy wedlock with Mary Virginia Meniffée, of Ohio, county of Fayette, and who came to Iowa with her mother. This marriage occurred in 1872 and has been blessed with six children: E. A., of Schaller; Mrs. Dora Howard, of Schaller; Homer, located on the old homestead; Arthur, residing on one of his father's farms near Estherville, Iowa; Earl, an agriculturist living north of Schaller; Vernon, at home.

For the benefit and inspiration of the young men and women of the present generation and as an appreciation of a fitting representation of the best citizenship with which Sac county is blessed, this foregoing review is presented. Martin Sheley is wholly and fully entitled to proper recognition as one of the substantial and progressive members of this division of the commonwealth.

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#### MORRIS M. FYFE.

There is something about the life story of a pioneer settler in this western section of our great country that especially appeals to the imagination and which we are prone to look upon from a romantic standpoint. For such it was. They came in the age of romance, when the prairie was as yet unconquered and wilderness reigned supreme, waiting for the labors of man to cause the rich earth to yield forth the sustenance for the support of the ever-increasing multitudes of the nation. The pioneers came, they saw, they remained and conquered, and those who were strong enough to stay and fight the battle through the first lean years and endure the hardships of a

life out on the great prairie, prospered exceedingly and their acres are now numbered in the hundreds.

Prominent among the sturdy pioneers who builded up a section of the great state of Iowa and caused it to blossom as a garden, was Morris M. Fyfe, late of Douglas township, Sac county. Mr. Fyfe was one of the early homesteaders in Douglas township, coming here from Wisconsin with his young wife when there were but few settlers in the county and residing here for a long period of years until his death, August 20, 1913. He was one of the Almighty's best creations and was universally respected and admired for his many sterling qualities and departed this life sincerely mourned by the hundreds who knew him but to love him.

M. M. Fyfe was born in Orleans county, New York, September 27, 1834, and was the son of James Fyfe, a native of Vermont, and grandson of John Fyfe, a native of Scotland and a Revolutionary soldier. The mother of M. M. Fyfe was Electra Sanford, a daughter of Reuben Sanford, of Vermont. James Fyfe and his wife removed to Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, where the wife died at the age of fifty years and the father died in 1863, at the age of sixty-nine. Here it was that M. M. Fyfe was reared and educated in the primitive schools of this wilderness country. He spent three or more winters in the great woods of Wisconsin engaged in timbering and lumbering.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Fyfe enlisted, in 1861, in the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry and was later transferred to the cavalry. His command formed a part of the Department of the Gulf, and the soldier participated in the battles around Baton Rouge and the capture of Port Hudson. He was wounded at Clinton, Louisiana, receiving a ball in the breast, which passed entirely through his body and emerged from the back. He was taken to the hospital and was discharged at Madison, Wisconsin, July 28, 1864.

Immediately after his discharge Mr. Fyfe began to work in Wisconsin in order to get enough money to pay for transportation to the West, where he intended to found a home. He was married in the spring of 1866 and set out for the land of his desire and settled in Douglas township, Sac county, where he and his young wife located on a homestead. Their first home was a small affair, twelve by twenty feet in dimension. They set out fine groves of trees which are now monarchs in size. A fine orchard was soon growing on the place and later large and commodious barns housed his grain and live stock. Near their place was situated Lake Rush, which at that time was the habitue of ducks and fish, which furnished the settlers with plenty of game food. This lake has since been drained, as have been practically all

the lakes and sloughs which formerly covered the fertile area of Douglas township to a considerable extent. The Fyfes kept a considerable dairy and Mr. Fyfe was one of the earliest fine stock breeders of Sac county. For many years he was a well-known breeder of Polled Angus cattle and had a fine herd. Mr. Fyfe was a man of tireless industry and, assisted by his faithful and noble helpmeet, he became the owner of a considerable estate of five hundred acres of fine land.

Mr. Fyfe was married on March 4, 1866, to Elizabeth Seekins, who was born on March 25, 1848, in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and is the daughter of William E. and Lydia E. (Knapp) Seekins, natives of New York state. The mother of Mrs. Fyfe died in Sac county in 1869. Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Fyfe were the parents of a large family of children: Mrs. Jennie Horine, of North Dakota; Franklin M., of Sac county, and who is tilling a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas township; Mrs. Celia E. Hunter, of Douglas township; William A., of Buena Vista county, Iowa; James Dennis, who is now living on the old home farm; Emma Dell and Mary A., deceased. M. M. Fyfe passed away August 20, 1913. He was a life-long Republican in his political convictions, but was so busy with his personal affairs and the management of his large farm that he never sought political preferment outside of accepting some local township office. He took a prominent part in the organization of Douglas township and held the honorable post of justice of the peace and served as township trustee for a number of years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post No. 416. His loss was felt by the members of his family and his many friends, and his demise marked the passing of one of the sturdy and familiar figures of the pioneer days of Sac county.

Frank M. Fyfe, a son of M. M. Fyfe, was born October 30, 1872, in Sac county. He was married January 28, 1901, to Sarah Wallace, daughter of John and Louisa Wallace. They have three daughters, Opal Alice, Fern May and Peryl Lucille.

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#### ADELBERT E. WEBB.

To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, the sturdy persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which so prominently characterize the farming element of the state of Iowa. Among this class may be mentioned the subject of this brief review, who, by reason of years of indefatigable labor and honest effort, has not only acquired a well merited material pros-

perity, but has also richly earned the highest esteem of all with whom he is associated.

Adelbert E. Webb, of Douglas township, Sac county, Iowa, was born November 9, 1861, in Lenawee county, Michigan, and was the son of J. B. and Ellen Webb, who were natives of New York. The Webb family came to Lenawee county, Michigan, early in its history and remained there until 1873. They then moved to Jasper county, Iowa, and eight years later located in Cedar township, this county. J. B. Webb was born in 1830 and died in 1906 in this county. His wife was born in 1836 and died in 1910. They reared a family of two children, Mrs. Carrie Hamilton, of Lytton, Iowa, and Adelbert E., whose history is here portrayed.

Adelbert E. Webb was educated in the district schools of his native county in Michigan, and since he was only twelve years of age when his parents moved to Iowa, he attended school for a few years after reaching this state. He assisted his father with the work of the farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-eight, although he had bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres some time before his marriage. That land he sold and bought his present farm after marriage, for which he paid thirty-four dollars and thirty-seven and one-half cents an acre, and with the fine home, excellent barns and outbuildings, together with extensive fencing and ditching which he has put upon the place, has increased the value of the tract until it is now worth at least five times what it cost him in the beginning. In addition to his one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas township, he has one hundred and sixty acres in Minnesota. He is a farmer of more than ordinary ability and successfully combines his grain and stock raising with the result that his farm affords a comfortable profit each year. He averages about twenty head of cattle and twelve head of horses each year for the market, besides hogs and other animals.

Mr. Webb was married December 4, 1889, to Barbara A. Carter, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Carter. Mr. and Mrs. Webb have one daughter, Mary Jeannette, who is still with her parents. In his political affiliations, Mr. Webb has always allied himself with the Republican party, but has never aspired to public office. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and takes an interest in the various local activities of that fraternal order. His well directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his agricultural interests and his sound judgment have brought his prosperity, and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by a man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work. In all the relations of life he has commanded the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been brought into contact.

## WILLIAM R. POLAND.

The occupation of farming, to which the major part of the business life of William R. Poland, one of the well-known and popular citizens of Sac county, has been devoted, is the oldest pursuit for a livelihood of mankind, and the one in which he will ever be the most independent. Mr. Poland has long been inseparably connected with the general growth of Sac county, where, in fact, he has spent most of his life. While primarily attending to his own varied interests, his life has been largely devoted to his fellow man, having been untiring in his efforts to inspire a proper respect for law and order and ready at all times to uplift humanity among civic and social lines.

William R. Poland, the son of Chevalier Hamilton and Mary Jane (Moore) Poland, was born within four miles of Iowa City, Iowa, on July 20, 1852. His parents were both natives of Ohio, and settled in that state when their farm was a wilderness. Chevalier H. Poland was one of the earliest settlers of Iowa, coming to this state when young, in 1849. He first settled in Johnson county, Iowa, and then settled in Calhoun county and bought a farm a few years later, in or near Fonda, in 1868. In later years he returned to Johnson county, Iowa, where his death occurred in April, 1899, at the advanced age of eighty-seven. C. H. Poland and wife were the parents of seven children: S. H., who resides in California; J. W., of Oxford, Ontario, Canada; J. M., of Battle Creek, Michigan; W. R., of Douglas township; Mrs. Samantha Bowers, of Iowa City, Iowa; Hubert L. and Lorenzo, who both died in infancy, and Margaret Isabelle, who has made her home with Mr. Poland since 1892.

William R. Poland received all of his school education in the district schools of Johnson county, Iowa, Sac City high school and Cornell College, and when sixteen years of age accompanied his parents to Calhoun county, this state, where he worked with his father on the home farm. In 1880 he bought a farm for himself in Calhoun county and managed it for nine years. He then sold this farm and came to Sac county, where he bought land in Douglas township at four dollars an acre. He later sold this tract and bought one hundred and sixty acres for twenty dollars an acre, and this farm he has improved by erecting buildings of all kinds and putting up fences and installing a system of drainage, which adds greatly to the productivity of the soil.

Mr. Poland was married in 1890 to Eliza Jeannette Hughes, the daughter of Pinckney and Eliza Jane (Campbell) Hughes, and to this marriage have been born two daughters, who are still at home with their par-



ents, Mabel Antoinette and Edith Laverne, graduates of Sac City high school in 1910 and both of whom have been teaching for the past four years.

Politically, Mr. Poland is a Republican, while his fraternal affiliations are with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Mr. Poland has won his success solely through his own efforts and, although he has had many discouragements to overcome, he has made a success of life and in his declining years has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he lives has been benefited by his residence. He has worked his way to a position of trust in the locality and has won the esteem of his friends and neighbors.

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#### E. M. SCHNIRRING.

E. M. Schnirring, a prosperous farmer of Cedar township, this county, was born February 4, 1867, in Springfield, Illinois. His parents, Mathaus and Catherine Schnirring, were both natives of Wittenberg, Germany, where Mathaus Schnirring was born in 1838, coming to the United States when he was eighteen years of age. He was a brick maker by trade and worked at Springfield until 1867, when he moved to Decatur, Illinois, and remained there until his death in 1901. His wife, Catherine, came to America when she was nine years of age with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Mathaus Schnirring were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy: George John, of Wall Lake township, this county; Emma, deceased; Louisa, deceased; Edward M., whose history is here related; Albert L.; Amelia; Fred O.; Walter H., of Cedar township.

E. M. Schnirring was reared and educated in the rural schools of Macon county, Illinois. In 1896, several years after his marriage, Mr. Schnirring left Illinois and came to Sac county, Iowa, where he bought eighty acres of land at thirty-six dollars an acre. In 1898 he bought another eighty at the same price and ten years later he added his third eighty acres, for which he had to pay eighty-five dollars an acre, and he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent farming land, with two sets of buildings. He makes a specialty of stock raising, handling Aberdeen Angus and Jersey cattle. In 1913 he had twenty pure bred Aberdeen and two pure bred Jersey cows. In that year he raised one hundred and twenty-five hogs and twenty-five sheep. He has a residence which is one of the most attractive in the township.



Mr. Schnirring was married in 1890 to Anna M. von Bargaen, who was born in Germany, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry von Bargaen, and to this marriage have been born three children: Milton G., born in February, 1893; Flora C., born in 1901, and Leo Henry, born in March, 1909. Mr. Schnirring is a Republican in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men, Modern Woodmen of America, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal Neighbors.

Mr. Schnirring is a man who, while advancing his own interests, has not neglected his duty to be kind and considerate toward his neighbors and associates. He has always helped to further any laudable undertaking for the public welfare and has therefore enjoyed the good will and esteem of all classes of people.

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### JAMES B. DAKIN.

Trade and commerce have ever had an attraction for the class of individuals who seem best adapted to succeed in this oldest of callings. Of necessity, man himself is compelled to buy; likewise, it is necessary that others do the selling; the raw material is previously prepared by skilled artisans so that the buyer can use it at first hand to supply his needs in every particular. A few out of the vast army of those engaged in merchandising seem chosen from among the aggregate for marked preference and are noted as being more successful than the average. We are often puzzled by this apparent discrepancy and wonder why more persons do not succeed in this attractive occupation; but, upon investigation, we find that the underlying causes for the success of one individual and the possible failure of the other to advance is due, in part, to the possession of different qualifications, in some measure to heredity, and, above all, to the decided ability of the successful one to win where others may be contented with a mediocre return for his exertions. It is evident that he of whom the biographer is pleased to write is a successful business man and an excellent citizen. J. B. Dakin, merchant of Schaller, is one of those warm-hearted individuals, whose friends are loyal and who has succeeded beyond the average in building up a substantial and remunerative business. Coming of a long line of distinguished ancestors who figured prominently in the early history of the Eastern states, he is a fitting representative of a class who have been empire builders for centuries.

The Dakin department store occupies a large room, fronting on the two main streets of the town of Schaller, each room being eighty feet in extent.



JAMES B. DAKIN



The shelves are filled with a complete line of staple goods, dry goods, clothing, groceries and other necessities arranged on the departmental plan. The basement floor of the building is also occupied with goods, and Mr. Dakin carries a stock exceeding fifteen thousand dollars in value. Mr. Dakin began business in Schaller with a small stock of goods located in a smaller room in the year 1900 and moved to his present location in 1905. He employs five salesman.

J. B. Dakin was born in Dexter, Jefferson county, New York, August 15, 1859. He is the son of James B. and Mary L. (Bassett) Dakin, natives of Massachusetts and New York respectively.

The name "Dakin" is derived from the ancestral name of an old Norman estate near Louviers, a village which is still in existence and now bears the name Acquigny (Akenney). Lord D'Acquigny, a Frenchman, accompanied William the Conqueror on his victorious expedition for the conquest of Britain and fought in the battle of Hastings, October 14, 1066. The Battle Abby Roall gives his name as Dakeny. The battle was fought in a wheat field, the enemy hiding among the wheat stocks. The King called out "Strike, Dakin, strike, the devil's in the hemp." It was in this peculiar manner that the name came into existence. Sir Thomas Dakin, ex-lord mayor of the city of London, was a direct descendant of this historic ancestor.

The paternal parent of J. B. Dakin was born March 2, 1804, in Concord, New Hampshire, and married Mary L. Bassett, of Watertown, New York. He was the son of Amos and Phoebe Bowman Barrett Dakin. Amos Dakin was born August 20, 1770, and was the father of six children, Elbridge, James B., Phoebe, Hannah, George and Charles B. Amos was the son of Samuel, Jr., and Elizabeth Billings Dakin. Samuel (I) was the son of Joseph Dakin, who took to wife Dorothy Wooster, of Concord. Joseph Dakin was the offspring of Thomas Dakin, who married Susan Stratton, of Concord. Thomas Dakin, the founder of the family in America, was born in England, the son of John and Alice Dakin, who sailed from the land of their ancestors in the good ship "Abigail" July 2, 1635, with the ostensible purpose of locating in New England. They eventually became part of a colony which settled in the vicinity of Concord, Massachusetts.

James B. Dakin, father of J. B. Dakin, located in New York state, where he died. He was the father of three children: Mrs. Minnie L. Gilmore, of Sackett's Harbor, New York; Mrs. Katie Snook, of Watertown, New York; James B.

James B. Dakin was educated in the public and high schools of Dexter.

New York. At the early age of seventeen years he moved westward and was employed in a merchandise store at Toledo, Ohio. Here he remained until he attained the age of nineteen years, then returned to New York and was employed for four years, at the end of which time he embarked in business for himself in the village of Barnes' Corners, New York. In the year 1898 he came to Des Moines and was engaged in the grocery business for two years, and in 1900 he located permanently in Schaller. It is here in Sac county that his greatest successes have been obtained, his previous experience being but the preliminary for the exercise of talents which have enabled him to forge ahead rapidly and take first rank among the business men of the county.

Mr. Dakin is a Republican in politics, is an active member of the city council and has served as a member of the school board. He takes a keen interest in municipal affairs and is always found in the forefront of innovations which will have a tendency to improve conditions in his adopted city. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church and takes an active part in religious matters, being himself a moral and upright man in every sense of the word. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Yeomen.

Mr. Dakin has been twice married. In 1883 he married Jennie E. Canfield, who died in October, 1888, and was the mother of one child, James Chauncey, born April 26, 1887, and who is his father's right hand assistant in the store. His second marriage occurred in May, 1897, with Myrtle M. Snell, of New York. Two children have blessed this union, Mildred May, aged thirteen years, and Cora Fern, aged ten years.

This brief review is placed herein for the perusal of the many friends and acquaintances of this whole-souled, genial gentleman, who has lived a life of usefulness, is an exemplary citizen and is especially deserving of a tribute in the pages of this history.

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### ROBERT J. PAEPER.

It has always been a noticeable fact that the German people are thriftier than we and that, everything being equal, they, as a rule, become the possessors of property earlier than the young men of other nationalities. This fact need not be wondered at when we come to consider the matter from the proper viewpoint, owing to the fact that the German is more industrious and less extravagant, keeping in mind the aphorism that "a dollar saved is a dollar earned." However, he does not necessarily deny himself the neces-

sities of everyday life, and believes in having a good sprinkle of its luxuries, but he has taught himself to get along with less of the so-called good things of the material world than we of the present generation especially. In other words, Americans are better spenders, and it is no credit to us to say that we are, as a rule, not willing to do whatever falls to our lot with equal grace, being inclined to rebel if we cannot secure just the precise line of work that suits our particular fancy, while, on the other hand, the young German coming to this country will work at whatever is honorable in order to get a foot hold in the world.

Robert J. Paeper, the son of Christopher and Caroline (Reno) Paeper was born August 15, 1860, near Berlin, Germany. His father was born in 1831, and died in this county, October 8, 1903. Caroline Reno, the mother of the subject of this review, died in 1868, in Michigan City, Indiana. Christopher Paeper and his family came to America in 1861, and first settled at Michigan City, Indiana, where Christopher Paeper secured employment with the Michigan Central railroad, and here the family remained through the war and until after the death of the mother in 1868. Christopher Paeper and his children then moved to Ford county, Illinois, where they lived on a farm owned by his brother for two years. While living here he was married to Mrs. Emma Bishop in the fall of 1872. The next spring Christopher Paeper and his family came to Sac county, Iowa, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres in section 2, Richland township, and they lived on this farm until the spring of 1881, when Mr. Paeper sold out and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Douglas township, in section 22. To this tract he added more land from time to time until he was the owner of four hundred acres in the township at the time of his death in 1903. Christopher Paeper was a public-spirited man, was actively identified with the public affairs of his community and served his fellow citizens by filling very creditably several township offices. By his first marriage Christopher had six children: C. A., of Sac County; R. J., whose history is here portrayed; Mrs. Louisa Schumaker, of Sioux county, this state; Caroline and Minnie, both deceased; Mrs. Mary Winkler, of Luverne, Minnesota. To Mr. Paeper's second marriage there were born four daughters, all of whom are living in Douglas township, Mrs. Emma Henrich, Mrs. August Henrich, Mrs. Anna Larsen and Mrs. Freda Anderson.

Robert J. Paeper was educated in the public schools of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. Marrying at the age of twenty-three, he at once began to farm for himself and for the first fifteen years rented a farm in this county. He then bought one hundred and twenty acres of land at thirty dollars per acre,

and now has this tract well improved in every way and in a condition where it yields satisfactory returns to the owner. He has built a fine residence and barn, as well as installed a system of drainage which has enabled him to raise better and larger crops. His income is largely augmented by the annual sales of his cattle and hogs. In 1913 he raised forty head of Shorthorn cattle for the market, besides a big drove of Chester White hogs.

Mr. Paeper was married January 12, 1883, to Inez Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Madison Cole, of Douglas township, and to this union have been born five children, all of whom are still at home with their parents. The oldest son, William, is a farmer of this township, and the other children are Edward H., Roy, Fred and Christopher.

Politically, Mr. Paeper is a Republican and has taken an active part in the affairs of his home township. He has been trustee for two years and was president of the school board for fifteen years. The members of the family are all stanch adherents of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which they give their zealous support. Mr. Paeper is a man who has won the confidence of his neighbors because of his upright dealings and the frank manner in which he conducts all of his business transactions. As a public official he served his constituents well and faithfully, and in every measure which has for its object the public welfare he is always found lending his active support.

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### WILLIAM W. STOKES.

In examining the life records of self-made men, it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other elements which enter in and conserve to the advancement of personal interests,—perseverance, discrimination and mastering of expedients,—but the foundation of all achievement is earnest, persistent labor. At the outset of his career as a nurseryman Mr. Stokes recognized this fact, and he did not seek any royal road to the goal of prosperity and independence, but began to work earnestly and diligently in order to advance himself, and the result is that he is now numbered among the progressive, successful and influential men of Sac county.

William W. Stokes, a prosperous nurseryman of Sac City, Iowa, was born May 18, 1874, in England. His parents were George and Jane (Bugg) Stokes, natives of England. In 1876 the Stokes family left England for the United States and first settled in Illinois, but a year later moved to Carroll



county, Iowa, where they permanently settled. The father was accidentally killed at a railroad crossing June 30, 1881. Mr. and Mrs. George Stokes were the parents of seven children: Charles, of Carroll county, Iowa; Mrs. Ada Simpson, of Shelby county, Iowa; George, of Petersburg, Nebraska; W. W., of whom this narrative speaks; Mrs. Agnes Howard, of Sac county; Mrs. Minnie Hogge, of Lake View, Iowa; Walter, also of Lake View, and one adopted child, Jennie.

William W. Stokes received his education in the parochial schools of Carroll county, Iowa. The family lived in a Catholic community and, although they were Presbyterians in faith, they were glad to avail themselves of the excellent schools which were conducted by the Sisters of Charity in their home community. Mr. Stokes received an excellent practical education before his parents moved to Sac county in 1896. Upon coming to this county Mr. Stokes rented land and in 1897 moved to Cedar township, where he lived on a rented farm for seven years. In 1904 he moved to Coon Valley township, where he remained until he moved to his present farm. He now has one hundred and ten acres near Sac City, which he purchased in 1907 for seventy dollars an acre. In 1911 he purchased a nursery and since that time has been rapidly stocking his nursery with trees, both fruit and ornamental, which can be grown in this locality. He now has twenty-six different varieties of apples, five varieties of cherries, six varieties of plums, and many varieties of currants, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and other kinds of small fruits. He has taken a great deal of pride in getting only the best and hardiest trees and shrubs for his nursery, and his rapidly-growing trade shows that he has succeeded to a marked degree. He is working up a parcel post business throughout this part of the state and is already gratified with the results which have attended his efforts in this line. It is safe to say that his business is well established and in the coming years will prove increasingly profitable.

Mr. Stokes was married February 1, 1898, to Christina Hogge, of this county, the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Hogge. Both of his wife's parents were natives of Iowa and are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Stokes are the parents of four children, Elizabeth, Wilmer, Roy and Pearl.

In politics, Mr. Stokes is a Republican, but has been so busy with his varied interests that he has not had time to identify himself actively with the deliberations of his party. Religiously, the family are members of the Presbyterian church and render to it their earnest and zealous support. Mr. Stokes is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Daughters of Rebekah and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a

man who has not allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature, but has preserved his faculties and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helpful influence of human life, and is a kindly friend and genial gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet.

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### ROBERT ENGELHARDT.

The state of Illinois has contributed a number of the best agricultural citizens of Sac county from her teeming population. With few exceptions, the migrants from this older state have made good in Iowa and have become important and influential members of the communities in which they reside. Bringing with them improved methods of farming and evidences of culture and refinement, in many instances they have had a salient and beneficent effect in being assimilated into the more or less cosmopolitan body politic of Sac county. The family of Robert Engelhardt, of Jackson township, came originally from Illinois and are well and favorably known in Sac county for their many excellent qualities and the activity of the various members of this excellent family in using their influence in the promotion of the educational, religious and social life of their neighborhood and in Sac City.

Mr. Engelhardt has a fine farm of eighty acres in Jackson township, a few miles north of Sac City. He is a breeder of Poland-China hogs and has a fine herd of thoroughbreds on his place, which is one of the most attractive and well kept farms of the neighborhood.

Mr. Engelhardt was born December 24, 1860, in LaGrange, Illinois, the son of Charles and Mary (Harnisch) Engelhardt, natives of Germany and who were born on a farm sixty miles from the town of Leipsic, Saxony. Charles was born in 1835 and came to America in 1851. In 1853 he returned and brought his father (Charles) and family back with him and settled at La Grange, Illinois. The Engelhardts went to Kansas in 1878 and homesteaded in Allen county, where the father died in December, 1888. The mother died in August, 1906, on the Allen county homestead. There were the following children in the family: Charles, deceased in 1876; Alfred, of Los Angeles, California; Robert; Gustavus, a resident of Allen county, Kansas; Frank, in Chicago; Mrs. Flora Cornell, who died in Wyoming, in 1908; Edward, a citizen of Chicago; Fred, of Sherman, California, and Charles, a resident of Chicago.

Robert Engelhardt followed farming near Maroa, Illinois, previous to

coming to Sac county in 1903. He at first purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Sac county, but later disposed of eighty acres. In 1885 he journeyed to western Kansas and homesteaded in Stevens county, the family residing in a typical dugout for some years. In 1887 they returned to Allen county, Kansas.

Mr. Englehardt is a Progressive in politics; is a member of the Christian church, and is, fraternally, connected with the Modern Woodmen and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Englehardt has been twice married, the first marriage taking place in December, 1884, with Clara Ham, of Indiana, who died in 1888, leaving one daughter, Clara Robert, a talented teacher in the Sac City schools, a graduate of the Sac City high school and a former student of Drake University and the college at Normal, Illinois. Mr. Englehardt's second marriage occurred December 17, 1890, with Eva M. Williams, of Maroa, Illinois, a daughter of W. O. and Emily J. Williams. Two children have been born to this union, namely: Vera Bernice, a graduate of the Sac City high school and of Drake University, class of 1913. She is a teacher in the Kirkham high school; Helen, deceased in 1898 at the age of twenty months.

William O. and Emily J. Williams were natives born to Illinois, having been born near Jacksonville. William was born and reared on a farm in Morgan county, Illinois, the son of John and Margaret J. (Craig) Williams. John Williams was a Kentuckian by birth and served in the Black Hawk War. In 1827 he came to Sangamon county, Illinois, and some time afterward moved to Morgan county, where he was married. In 1835 he removed to Cass county and in 1857 settled permanently in Macon county. He died April 26, 1862. He served as assessor of his township in Cass county. Mrs. Williams died in November, 1856. John was the parent of the following children: William; James D., a soldier in the Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Regiment, Union army, during the Civil War, and was killed at Fort Donelson in 1862; John E., also a soldier in the same regiment, died at Jackson, Mississippi; Mary J. died in 1872; Anna E., wife of Elisha Holmes, and deceased in 1897 in California; Sarah, deceased in 1863; David H., of Memphis, Tennessee. William O. Williams made his residence in Macon county after 1857, settling in Maroa township in 1858. He owned a farm of eighty acres on which he resided until 1888, and then removed to another farm which he had purchased in the same township. He was married July 3, 1862, to Emma J. Hedger, who was born in Parke county, Indiana, on April 23, 1841, a daughter of Thomas and Jane (McAllister) Hedger, of German and Scotch descent respectively. In the Hedger family there were

eight children: Minerva, William, John, Mary, Emma J., Harriet, Sarah E. and Joseph. Mrs. Hedger died October 16, 1865, and Mr. Hedger died in January, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. William O. Williams were the parents of four children: Addie, deceased September 8, 1865; Mrs. Eva Engelhardt; Jennie, a teacher of music, the wife of Charles E. Barracks, of Anderson, Indiana; Fred, who died October 25, 1872; Grace, who died April 6, 1881. They were members of the Christian denomination. William O. died in March, 1899. His wife still survives him in the old home in Illinois, making her home partly in Indiana and with Mrs. Engelhardt in Sac county.

It is recorded that the first child born to Robert Engelhardt and his first wife came to them in a dugout on their Kansas claim in Stevens county. The hardships which they were forced to undergo in holding down their homestead in Kansas would fill a good sized volume in itself, although it was one of the happiest periods of their lives. Mrs. Englehardt is a cultured and refined lady who has had the advantages of a good home in her early life and received a good education—attributes which have been of great assistance to her in the upbringing of her interesting family. She is very active in social and religious work, both she and Mr. Engelhardt being members of the Sac City Christian church. They are also members of the Country Club, composed of their neighbors and friends who meet semi-monthly for social discussion and recreation. It is one of the well known institutions of Sac county whose example is being followed in other sections.

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### CHARLES WESLEY BALLARD.

He whose name stands above is a member of a family which has long been identified with the growth and development of Sac county, each having contributed in his peculiar way to the moral, educational and material advancement of his time. Charles W. Ballard, proprietor of the Glendale farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres located in section 25 of Wheeler township, was born on September 1, 1859, in Colchester, Lamoine township, McDonough county, Illinois, the son of George Haven Ballard and Adaline A. Belles, his wife. George H. Ballard was born on November 3, 1836, in Perry, Lake county, Ohio, the son of William L. (born in 1786) and Susan (Baldwin) Ballard, the latter born in 1795. George H. Ballard, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, was married in 1856, while a resident of Sycamore, Illinois, the marriage taking place at Malta, Illinois,



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES W. BALLARD



the home of Miss Belles, who was born September 22, 1838. George H. Ballard was a man of more than ordinary ability and great aptitude. He had a natural bent for mechanics and when quite young mastered the cabinet-maker's trade, in which his ability amounted to nothing short of genius. He frequently contracted for building houses entire, putting many unusual touches into the finishing of same. He was also more or less familiar with steam engineering and frequently operated engines of this class. For a period of eight years he was connected with the Marsh Harvesting Machine Company in the capacity of subforeman and time-keeper and also was responsible for the proper working of the various lines of machinery. In the spring of 1878, desiring to better his financial condition and possibly secure an excellent location, he left Illinois with a colony which settled in Stafford county, Kansas. However, he did not find conditions there at all to his liking and two years later, in the fall of 1880, he came to Odebolt, this county, and took up his residence on a farm about two and one-half miles north of that city. Shortly after coming to this locality, he purchased the Union restaurant and for a period of nineteen years devoted his time and attention to the management of that business. He is now living in comfortable retirement in Odebolt, having given up connection with the active labors of life. In spite of his years, he retains a keen interest in affairs, both local and otherwise, and his mental and physical activity would do credit to a man several years his junior. There were originally six children in the Ballard family, one of whom, William, died in childhood. Those other than the immediate subject of this sketch are Frank Seymour, who resides in Duff, Rock county, Nebraska; Elizabeth M. (Mrs. Bailey), residing in Osmond, Pierce county, Nebraska, and Etta Emeline (Mrs. Traver), who lives in Webster City, Hamilton county, Iowa. In his younger days, George H. Ballard had a reputation as a sportsman and fisherman of more than usual ability and as he advanced in years he spent weeks and months at his cottage on the shore of Wall lake, where he maintained his reputation of earlier days. He has a great store of reminiscences which he takes pleasure in recounting to the delight of his friends.

Charles W. Ballard, the immediate subject of this sketch, received his education in the schools of DeKalb county, Illinois, and later at Sycamore in the same county. He taught one term of school in Kansas and after coming to this county he assisted in operating the paternal farm for six years and during that time and later taught fourteen terms of school in Richland, Clinton and Wheeler townships, this county. He proved particularly proficient in the education of youth and exerted a wholesome influence over his



pupils in the formation of character. During sixteen years of the time his father was engaged in the restaurant business, he was associated with him, having practical charge of the business, especially at such times as the father would be absent on some of his famous hunting trips. The winter of 1903-1904 he spent in California and upon returning to this locality he retired from active business and for two years resided in Odebolt. In the spring of 1907 he took up his residence on his present farm in Wheeler township which he had purchased in the spring of 1900 at a cost of forty-seven dollars per acre. He made this investment after disposing of his farm in Richland township for five thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars for the entire farm.

Mr. Ballard engages in general farming, in which he is eminently successful and pays particular attention to live stock. He has from twelve to fifteen head of high grade Shorthorn cattle and has seven milk cows. He operates a private dairy, disposing of his cream to the creamery. He also produces for the market about one hundred head of hogs annually. He has an excellent strain of thoroughbred Poland China swine, all of which are eligible to registration. For the general work of the farm he keeps two horses and in the season of 1913 from sixty acres planted to corn he produced thirty-five hundred bushels. The management of this farm is such as to constitute another proof, if proof there need be, of the undoubted business ability of the owner and proprietor.

On November 17, 1897, in Orangeville, Stephenson county, Illinois, Mr. Ballard was united in marriage with Mary Esther Riem, born in that town on July 27, 1873, a daughter of George Franklin and Clara Elvira (Cross) Riem, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter born and reared in Illinois. After several years' residence in Illinois, George F. Riem and wife moved to Los Angeles, California, where his death occurred on January 28, 1903. He was in his sixtieth year, having been born on February 26, 1843. The widow, whose birth occurred on June 16, 1851, still resides in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Ballard have two interesting daughters, Blanche Eleanor, born November 20, 1898, still in school, and Myrtle Amanda, born on March 6, 1905.

In politics, Mr. Ballard is aligned with the Progressive party and his religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal church, which the family attends. Fraternally, he is a member of the order of Yeomanry and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, through the local organizations at Odebolt. Mr. Ballard has long been numbered among the progressive and public-spirited citizens of this county and is in every way one of the substan-

tial men of the community. Endowed by nature with strong mental powers and possessing the courage and energy to direct his faculties in proper channels, he early became a man of resourceful capacity, as the able management of his private affairs abundantly testify. He possesses the happy faculty of not only making friends, but binding them to him by his good qualities of head and heart.

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### SAMUEL HAHNE.

There is no positive rule for achieving success, and yet in the life of the successful man there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who gains prosperity is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that come in his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly, and when one man passes another on the highway of life to reach a goal of prosperity before others who perhaps started out before him, it is because he has the power to use advantages which probably encompass the whole human race. Today among the prominent citizens and successful men of Schaller stands Samuel Hahne. The qualities of keen discrimination, sound judgment and executive ability enter very largely into his make-up and have been contributing elements to the material success which has come to him.

Samuel Hahne, the cashier of the State Bank of Schaller, Iowa, was born August 27, 1883, in the town where he is now living. His parents were F. H. and Sophia M. (Schaefer) Hahne, natives of Germany and Wisconsin respectively. F. H. Hahne was born in Germany in 1847 and died in 1900. He came to America with his parents when a child and settled in Wisconsin. In the early seventies the Hahne family came to Sac county, Iowa, and settled in Eden township, on land for which they paid one dollar and a half an acre. The country at that time was all a barren prairie, but it needed only the magic touch of the human hand to convert it into the garden spot of the world. F. H. Hahne was one of the first citizens of Schaller and was prominently identified with the material prosperity of the town and community. He served as county supervisor for two terms and was one of the largest land owners of the township. At one time he owned nearly one thousand acres of land and at his death was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres. In his latter years he was interested in the banking business at Schaller and was president of the organized private bank which became a

state bank in 1889. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Hahne were the parents of seven children, Mrs. Matilda Aldrich, Mrs. Marie Jenkins, Mrs. Sarah King, Hulda (deceased), Samuel and Joseph.

Samuel Hahne was educated in the common schools of Schaller and later graduated from the high school of that place. He entered the bank in 1902, when only nineteen years of age, as assistant cashier and became the cashier of the bank in 1913. The State Bank of Schaller was originally operated as a private bank, and dates its existence from 1880. It was conducted as a private bank from the time of its organization until 1899, when it was reorganized and made a state bank, with F. H. Hahne president and A. W. Bicknell, cashier. The capital stock was forty thousand dollars. In 1900 F. H. Hahne was succeeded by H. L. Leland as president, which position he held until 1907, when he was succeeded by W. J. Howard, who is still president of the bank. Mr. Bicknell was succeeded by J. T. Edson as cashier, and in 1913 Mr. Hahne assumed that responsible position. The present officers of the bank are as follows: W. J. Howard, president; J. H. Meier, vice-president; Samuel Hahne, cashier; E. W. Sacaefer, assistant cashier. The directors of the bank are C. O. Porter, William Spindler, W. J. Howard, J. D. Currie, J. T. Edson, Samuel Hahne, J. H. Meier and J. T. Edson. The bank has a capital stock now of forty thousand dollars and in 1913 deposits of three hundred and twenty thousand dollars and a surplus of ten thousand. The bank is housed in a large brick building, which is owned by the banking company.

In addition to his banking interests, Samuel Hahne owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Minnesota and has recently disposed of several tracts of land which he owned in this county. Politically, he is a Republican and is at present the treasurer of the city of Schaller. Mr. Hahne and his family are members of the Presbyterian church, to which they give an earnest and zealous support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Mr. Hahne was married in 1906 to Cora M. McLaughlin, of Schaller, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McLaughlin, and they have one son, Everett Lincoln, born February 12, 1908. Mr. Hahne is rapidly coming to the front as one of the prominent business men of his community. He is forging his way to the front ranks by reason of his innate force and superior ability, and shows intelligence and judgment of a high order. He has applied himself closely to the intricacies of the banking business with a determination which speaks well for the future. He is now at the thresh-

hold of a long and useful career, and the life which he has lived so far in the community has proved that his career in the future will be one which will reflect credit upon himself and redound to the honor of the community in which he lives.

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### WILLIAM L. COLE.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch is widely known in Sac county and is one of the honored citizens of Douglas township, where he is living after a strenuous life of activity in connection with agricultural pursuits. His well directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have brought to him prosperity, and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by any man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of any disaster or discouragement that may arise. In all the relations of life Mr. Cole has commanded the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been brought into contact and a biographical history of this locality would not be complete without a record of his career.

William L. Cole, of Douglas township, Sac county, Iowa, was born September 5, 1862, in Clinton county, Iowa. His parents, Madison and Sarah Jane (Swing) Cole, were both natives of the Hoosier state of Indiana. Madison Cole was born in Indiana, in June, 1826, and died August 26, 1903. Sarah Jane Swing was born March 13, 1835, and died March 13, 1900. Shortly after their marriage Madison Cole and his wife came to Clinton county, Iowa, about the year 1858, where they remained until 1881, when they settled on the farm in Douglas township, Sac county, where W. L. Cole is now living. Mr. and Mrs. Madison Cole were the parents of a large family: Mrs. Malinda Jane Shadle, deceased; Mrs. Laura Glidden, deceased; Mrs. Abigail Cook, of Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. Fannie Allison, of Wichita, Kansas; John, of Jackson township, Sac county; W. L., of whom this sketch speaks; Mrs. Inez Paeper, of Douglas township, in this county; Charles, of Varina, Iowa; A. U., of Cedar township, this county, and Mrs. Ola Block, who lives in Douglas township, this county.

William L. Cole was reared and educated in Clinton county, this state, and when nineteen years of age his parents moved from Clinton county to Sac county, and he has since resided on the farm where his parents settled upon their arrival in this county. Since 1880 he has had entire charge of

the farm, having purchased the farm from his father. He has erected a fine, modern, ten-room house in the last two years, has good barns and outbuildings of all kinds. He has a barn which measures thirty-two by forty-eight, with a fourteen-by-sixteen-foot addition. He raises a large amount of stock each year and has about twenty-five head annually for the markets.

Mr. Cole was married February 2, 1892, to Lena Galbraith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Galbraith. The Galbraiths were early settlers of this county and first settled on the farm where their daughter is now living. Mr. and Mrs. Cole are the parents of four children: Guy, born December 20, 1895; Lola, born in November, 1901; Reo, born in June, 1903, and Lucile, born in January, 1909.

Politically, Mr. Cole is a member of the Republican party and has taken a very active interest in the affairs of that organization. An indication of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens is shown in the fact that he has been elected as trustee and assessor of his township, both offices coming to him as a recognition as a business man. He is interested in the Sac County Mutual Insurance Company and was a director in that organization for eight years. In fact, Mr. Cole is interested in any public enterprise which seeks to better the condition of the farmers of his locality. The members of the family are adherents of the Methodist Episcopal church and give it their zealous and earnest support. Mr. Cole has lived a useful and honorable life, a life characterized by perseverance and well defined purpose, and he has established his character as a man who measures up to the type of the good American citizen.

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#### WILLIAM G. BROBEIL.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have fought their own way to success through unfavorable environment we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of a character which cannot not only endure so rough a test, but gain new strength through the discipline. The gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends, but in spite of this, by perseverance, industry and a wise economy, he has attained a comfortable station in life, making his influence felt for good in his community in Lytton, Sac county, Iowa, where he has maintained his home for the past twenty years.

William G. Brobeil, a retired farmer of Lytton, Iowa, was born May

13, 1855, in Polk county, this state. His parents, John and Mary Christina (Schull) Brobeil, were both born at Wittenberg, Germany, and they were reared and married in their native country, coming to the United States in 1850. They first located in Pennsylvania, but two years later went west and settled in Des Moines, Iowa, where John Brobeil worked at his trade as a carpenter. He saved his money and, with true German thrift, was soon able to purchase a farm ten miles north of Des Moines. He died at the home of his son-in-law, George Miller.

William G. Brobeil was educated in the schools of Polk county, Iowa, and worked on his father's farm until his marriage. When he was twenty-seven years of age he rented his father's place and operated it for the next seven years, after which he rented his father-in-law's farm and lived on it for eight years. In 1894 he moved to Sac county, this state, although he had been there the previous year and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land at thirty-six dollars an acre. Such was his success as a farmer that within six years he was able to purchase another quarter section adjoining his first farm, so that he now has three hundred and twenty acres of land in Cedar township. In 1908 he retired from the active labor of the farm and purchased a residence in Lytton, where he is now living, surrounded by the comforts and conveniences of life. His two sons, Charles and Fred, are now operating the home farm.

Mr. Brobeil was married on December 25, 1880, to Barbara Elsa Deitz, of Polk county, this state, the daughter of Conrad and Susan Deitz, who were natives of Germany and among the early pioneers of Polk county. The Deitz family settled in Polk county in 1847, making the long overland trip from Pennsylvania to Iowa in emigrant wagons in that year. Mr. and Mrs. Brobeil are the parents of two children living, their sons, Charles and Fred, on the home farm. Minnie Blanche died at the age of eight years.

Mr. Brobeil is one of the stockholders in the Farmers Elevator Company, of Lytton, a co-operative enterprise which is rendering the farmers of **this section of the county** good service. Politically, Mr. Brobeil is a Democrat and has served as trustee of Cedar township for several terms. He and his wife are regular attendants of the Presbyterian church and are liberal contributors of their means to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Brobeil made a trip a few years ago to the Pacific coast and had an enjoyable tour, visiting many points of interest on the coast and having a very pleasant time. Mr. Brobeil belongs to that class of men who are able to overcome apparently insurmountable obstacles, and owes his success today to the fact that he has never known



what defeat in business means. He is truly a self-made man who has gained a comfortable competency solely through his own efforts, and in doing this he has never compromised between right and wrong, but has always steadfastly adhered to the right principles of honor and integrity. For this reason he well merits a place in this biographical volume.

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### CHARLES F. BERG.

One of the best known farmers in Sac county, Iowa, is Charles F. Berg, owner of a farm consisting of two hundred and twenty acres in Wheeler township, section 34. Mr. Berg first came to this county thirty-five years ago and is, therefore, one of the older pioneers of the county, having endured many of the hardships, privations and experiences of those who enter a new country. Mr. Berg is a native of Sweden, having been born in that country in 1835. His earlier life was passed in an orphans' home in Stockholm, but when five years of age he was taken into the house of a farmer in the country near that city and was reared as his own son. He received careful training in the secrets of successful husbandry and when quite a young boy was able to do a considerable amount of work about the farm. This knowledge and early experience stood him in good stead in later years when trying to win a competence from Dame Fortune in his adopted country. In 1864 Mr. Berg was united in marriage with Katerina Ekstrom, also a native of Sweden, born in 1839. Five years after marriage they emigrated to America and for the first six months lived in Indiana. They did not find conditions to their liking in the Hoosier state and so moved westward into Iowa, locating in Boone county. Here they lived for seven years, meeting with fair success in their chosen field of agriculture. In 1878 they came to Sac county and purchased a tract of eighty acres in Wheeler township, for which they paid six dollars and sixty cents per acre, buying on time. The various purchases of land Mr. Berg has made from time to time very clearly indicate the rise in the price of land in this territory from that of the pioneer days to the high figure which is now demanded. Mr. Berg's second purchase was forty acres, for which he paid sixteen dollars per acre. After a few short years he was again able to add to his holdings, again purchasing a tract of forty acres, but this time having to give a price of thirty dollars per acre, and by the time he made his last purchase of sixty acres he was compelled to pay forty-five dollars, several times the price of the land he first bought.





CHARLES F. BERG AND FAMILY



Mr. Berg has practically retired from the active duties of life and the management of the homestead is almost wholly in the competent hands of his son Martin, who divides his attention between grain and stock raising. The farm is an excellent producer and figures for the year 1913 will give a good idea of what is raised annually. In the year mentioned there were produced four thousand bushels of corn and two thousand bushels of oats. Forty tons of hay were harvested and in addition to the above there were two hundred and fifty bushels of wheat and the same amount of barley produced. In addition to this excellent showing, there were one hundred hogs marketed and ten head of cattle.

Martin Berg was born on the farm he now operates on August 1, 1879, and is, therefore, a native of Sac county. He received his earlier education in the district schools near the homestead and later took a course at the Sac City Institute. Politically, he is a Democrat, and was an ardent advocate of the policies of Woodrow Wilson in his campaign for presidential election. His religious affiliation is with the Swedish Lutheran church, of which he is an active and consistent member. He carries insurance in the Bankers' Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Berg are the parents of six children, namely: Amanda Sophia, who is the wife of P. G. Lundell, of Wheeler township, this county; Matilda Carolina, who is Mrs. Sherman Stolt, and resides in Sioux City, this state; Charles O., who is also located in Wheeler township; Anna Charlotte, who is the wife of S. Salmonson, of South Dakota; Henry, who is engaged in the practice of law in Idaho, and Martin, who, as above stated, manages the home farm for the father. All of the children have been given excellent educations, receiving elemental training in the district schools near home, supplemented with later and more advanced studies at Sac City Institute, and in addition to that course, Henry took a course in the study of the law at the University of Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Berg has been one of the most conscientious of fathers and has endeavored to prepare both his boys and girls for useful stations in life. On December 24, 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Berg will celebrate their fiftieth or golden wedding anniversary.

While not taking an active interest in politics, he is a quiet though staunch supporter of the Republican party, and his religious affiliation is with the Swedish Lutheran church, in the faith of which his family has been reared. While giving his main attention to the rearing of his family and the advancement of his material interests, Mr. Berg has ever borne in mind the principles of true manhood and stands one of the stalwart men of brain and charac-

ter who have done so much to advance the interests of this comparatively new section. Conscientious in the discharge of the various obligations of life, of undoubted integrity, he many years ago won the trust and confidence of those with whom he came in contact, and throughout the years this tribute of respect to genuine worth has only grown as time passed by.

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J. E. O'GRADY, D. D. S.

A man of excellent attributes of character and one of the representative citizens of a community known for the progressive spirit it manifests in the business world is Dr. J. E. O'Grady, the popular dentist of Schaller, Iowa.

Doctor O'Grady is a native of the Empire state, born at Courtland, New York, February 4, 1878, the son of Edward Daniel and Elizabeth (Flavin) O'Grady, both natives of county Kerry, Ireland. Edward Daniel O'Grady is a farmer and emigrated to America about 1871; in the winter of 1881 he came to Mason City, Iowa, where he bought a farm. In 1907 the family removed to Mason City, where they still reside and are highly respected citizens of that community. Mrs. O'Grady came to America about the close of the Civil War. Four children have been born to Edward Daniel and Elizabeth (Flavin) O'Grady, named as follows: Mrs. Mary Bell and Mrs. Johanna Carey, of Mason City; Mrs. Bessie Bonnyman, of Minneapolis, and Dr. J. E. O'Grady, the immediate subject of this sketch.

Dr. O'Grady received his primary education in the schools of Mason City, Iowa, where he was reared. His collegiate training was received at the Western Dental College, Kansas City, Missouri, from which institution he was graduated in 1903. He practised his profession at Kensett, Worth county, and at Dumont and Parkersburg, Butler county, and in September, 1906, came to Schaller, Iowa, where he has continually practised since. He also maintains an office at Galva, and enjoys an excellent practice at both towns.

While devoted to his professional duties, Doctor O'Grady has found time to deal extensively in real estate, in the handling of which he has shown marked aptitude. He is the owner of some very valuable properties, consisting of two fine farms in Traverse county, Minnesota, one of three hundred and seventy-four acres and another of three hundred and fifteen acres. He also has one hundred and seventy acres in Sac county, Iowa, and eight hundred acres in Pine county, Minnesota, which he purchased in 1906. He is

a man of exceptionally fine judgment of land values, gifted with the rare faculty of being able to foretell the future outcome of a present transaction.

Professionally, Doctor O'Grady keeps fully abreast of the best thought of the times, and he is an appreciative member of the District Dental Association, the Iowa State Dental Association and the American Dental Association. He also holds membership in the Dental Protective Association of the United States and the Alumni Association of Western College. He is independent in his political convictions, and, religiously, gives his allegiance to the Catholic church.

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### AUGUST D. WOODKE.

From the German empire has come to this broad land of the free the best and truest of its population, who have entered into the life of their adopted country with all the zest and ambition of conquest of the difficulties presenting themselves in their pathway, and have become the very bone and sinew of many communities. In all departments of the civic entirety they are to be found, not laggards, following the procession or being led by others, but they have pushed to the forefront in agriculture, commerce, the professions, and manufactures, and are found among the leaders in the development and well being of any community in which they have located. Among the many representatives of this race in Sac county, who have done their part in creating homes and competencies for themselves and families, and assisted in the progress of the section which is their adopted home, is found August D. Woodke, of whom the historian is pleased to write this review.

A. D. Woodke was born in Germany, June 26, 1861, the son of John and Johanna Woodke. The family emigrated to America in 1866 and settled at Crown Point, Lake county, Indiana, in the year of their arrival here. They resided on a farm in Lake county until 1876, when they migrated to Sac county and became prominently identified with the pioneer life of Eden township. They settled in section 31 of Eden township, and here the son, August D., was reared to young manhood. In their old age the parents retired to a life of well-earned leisure in the town of Lemars, the father going to his long rest in 1899, and the mother following him to the great beyond in February, 1902. They were the parents of five children: William, of Breckenridge, Minnesota; Mrs. Bertha Frevert, of Odebolt, Iowa; Otto

Woodke, Tiffin, Iowa; Charles, residing in Le Mars; Herman, in Australia, and August D.

Mr. Woodke resided on the home farm in Sac county until he attained the age of twenty-six years. He then took charge of his father's farm and operated it on the share system until he purchased it. By the exercise of diligence and rare business ability he soon succeeded in paying for the land and added substantially to his possessions. He is the owner of two hundred and forty-five acres of finely improved farm land in Eden township and has another farm of eighty acres in Eureka township. In March, 1913, he removed to Schaller and is interested in the automobile business, conducted under the name of A. D. Woodke & Son. This firm has been established since 1911. It is located in a large, commodious room on the main street of Schaller and they deal in automobiles and auto parts and supplies. A private repair shop is also maintained for the benefit and convenience of their many patrons.

For the past twenty years Mr. Woodke has been engaged in the production of pop corn, which is one of the most lucrative crops of this locality. For some years he was a successful grower, but in 1907 he branched out in the buying and shipping of this grain to the Eastern markets. By fair and honest dealing with patrons he has built up a thriving business. He travels in season over a large section of territory devoted to the production of this toothsome edible. He buys from the farmers in the vicinity of the towns of Galva, Early, Holstein, Superior, Estherville, and as far west as Nebraska points. During the year 1913 he purchased and shipped to eastern points over sixty-five carloads of this grain.

It is recorded of Mr. Woodke that in his younger days he learned the trade of plasterer and worked at his trade for a number of years. This accomplishment stood him in good stead during his younger days in Sac county and his operations while plying the trowel extended over considerable territory. He plastered houses in Odebolt and other towns of the county when a young man.

Mr. Woodke has always been allied with the Republican party. Originally he was brought up in the Lutheran faith, but joined the Methodist Episcopal church on coming to America. He is a director and president of the Eden Township Mutual Telephone Company.

Mr. Woodke's wedded life began February 10, 1887, when he espoused Alvina C. Schaefer, daughter of Christ Schaefer, the first pioneer settler of Eden township, of whom extended and favorable notice is given in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Woodke are the parents of the following children:

John H., of Schaller, Iowa; Edwin A., in the automobile business in Schaller; George C., who is tilling the home farm; Paul H., a student in Morningside College, Sioux City; Leonard Leslie, in high school; Albert M., a student in the Schaller high school. Mr. Woodke is known as a kind and indulgent parent who believes in assisting his children by means of a good education, the right kind of parental guidance and in other ways to advance themselves along well chosen paths. He is, among all of the Sac county citizens whose life and accomplishments are herein presented, fully entitled to this brief review and the biographer takes pleasure in writing this tribute in behalf of one who has "made good" in the performance of his duties as an excellent family head and a citizen. A study of his deeds and upright and honorable life will reveal much to the student of human character which will be of benefit to one who is seeking inspiration for his guidance in the battle for success and standing among his fellow men.

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### JOHN B. McLAUGHLIN.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentives to those whose careers are yet to be achieved. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. The gentleman whose life story herewith is briefly set forth is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and achieved a definite degree of success in the special sphere to which his talents and energies have been devoted.

John B. McLaughlin, a retired farmer of Iowa, was born January 2, 1856, in Mercer county, Illinois. He was the son of Allen Henry and Lovina J. (Morford) McLaughlin. Allen H. McLaughlin was born December 22, 1830, near Greenville, Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and died November 21, 1913, at the advanced age of eighty-two years, ten months and twenty-nine days. In the spring of 1853 Allen H. McLaughlin decided he would seek a home in the West and, in the company of others, started westward, making the trip by the long, tedious overland trail. They first located in Jackson county, Iowa, and within the first year after young Allen H. reached this county he was married, on September 15, 1853, to Lovina J. Morford, of Jackson county, Iowa. The next month they moved back to Mercer county, Illinois, where they continued to reside until the spring of 1877, when they came back to Iowa and located in Clinton county. In the



early spring of 1870, Allen H. and his family again turned their faces towards the setting sun, and another overland journey brought the family to Sac county, where they settled on a farm one and one-half miles southwest of Schaller, although the town at that time had no existence. Here they continued to reside until the spring of 1907, when they retired from the farm and spent the latter days of their life in quiet retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Allen H. McLaughlin were the parents of six children, only one of whom is deceased. The living children are: Mrs. J. B. Harris, John B., Henry A., Francis M. McLaughlin and Ben H. Allen H. McLaughlin and wife were married more than sixty years, and it is remarkable that in this three score years of their married life his was the third death in all of the McLaughlin family, out of six children, twenty-five grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

John B. McLaughlin came with his parents to Sac county, Iowa, in 1879, when he was twenty-three years of age. His father had traded his Clinton county, Iowa, farm for a section of land in Eureka township and J. B. McLaughlin settled on a part of this, his father giving him eighty acres. Later he bought another eighty adjoining, built a home and resided on this farm of one hundred and sixty acres until the spring of 1910, when he moved to Schaller and retired from active farming. After buying his one hundred and sixty acres, he added more land until he now has two hundred and fifteen acres in Sac county, besides a fine residence in Schaller near the park.

Mr. McLaughlin was married in 1876, in Mercer county, Illinois, to Mary L. Smith, who was born in that county in 1857. To this marriage seven children were born, six of whom are living: William Locke, who is on the home farm, married and has two children, Lucille and Jeanette; John Herman, deceased; Henry Allen, who lives near Dennison, Iowa; Joseph Marian, a farmer living north of Schaller, is married and has three children, Charles, Ruby and Irvin; Willard F., operating a furniture and undertaking establishment in Schaller, Iowa, and the father of one child, Florence Mary, an infant; Mrs. Etta McQuigg, living on a farm southwest of Schaller, has one daughter, Lenora; Mrs. Nina Woodke, whose husband is a farmer in Edin township, is the mother of one son, George Willard, an infant.

Mr. McLaughlin is an adherent of the Republican party and, although he is interested in the general principles of his party, he has never taken an active interest in its deliberations. Religiously, he, as well as the other members of his family, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and gives to it his earnest support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and takes an intelligent interest in the work of

that order. Mr. McLaughlin has lived a life which has been characterized by energy, industry and a high sense of honor. Since he believes in doing well what he has to do, all who know him speak of him as a prompt, free-spoken man, who has been wide awake in business, shrewd in dealings, but honest and straightforward in all matters. He is a man of pleasing personality who has a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the community where he has spent so many years.

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### OZRO J. KRAMER.

Efficiency in public service is demanded of the official incumbent in these days of rigid exactitude in the performance of all obligations to the public in general. When an official can combine thoroughness and aptitude in the discharge of the daily routine engendered by the incumbency of a government position, with a genial and obliging disposition, he is a valued and popular public servant and is given the esteem and commendation of the patrons of his department of the government service. Ozro J. Kramer, the efficient and obliging postmaster of the town of Schaller, while young in years, is endowed with a well developed turn of mind which enables him to perform the duties of his office with satisfaction to all concerned.

Mr. Kramer was born August 21, 1887, in Platteville, Wisconsin, the son of William A. and Dora (Jackson) Kramer, natives of Wisconsin and Indiana respectively. William A. Kramer followed the trade of barber and removed from Platteville to Schaller with his family in 1901, conducting a barbering establishment there until his death in 1903. He was the father of three children: Mrs. Rosa Rigge, of Appleton, Minnesota; Leona, who is assistant postmistress, and Ozro.

Ozro Kramer was graduated from the Schaller high school in 1906. Later, he entered Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa, and graduated from the commercial department in 1908. In June of the same year he became assistant postmaster of Schaller and was appointed to take full charge of the office in May, 1912. This office is now a third-class office and maintains three rural routes for the convenience of the patrons in the farming section surrounding the town.

Mr. Kramer is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen. He is unmarried and makes his resi-

dence with his mother and sister. He is a young man of exemplary habits, clean cut, honest, thorough in his discharge of his obligations to the public, and is destined to make his way in the world on the rising path of upward progress.

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### GUST HAMMERSTROM.

To a great extent the gratifying degree of prosperity which reflects from the broad and smiling acres of Sac county, Iowa, is due to the honest industry, the sturdy persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which characterize that portion of the farming element of this county which traces its origin to the land of Sweden, across the seas. Among the natives of that land who have won a pleasing measure of success for themselves and at the same time conferred honor and dignity upon their chosen locality by their commendable course in life, may be mentioned the subject of this sketch.

Gust Hammerstrom, residing on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 19, of Wheeler township, Sac county, Iowa, has made something of a name for himself as a breeder of live stock. He favors the Shorthorn breed and keeps on hand twelve animals of this pure strain, having at the present time about fifty head altogether. He also has about seventy-five hogs and makes a specialty of the Chester White strain, supplying the demands of the breeders in Sac, Crawford and Ida counties.

Mr. Hammerstrom was born in Sweden on January 20, 1869, being a son of John and Anna Hammerstrom, both of whom died in their native country. The elder Hammerstrom was a farmer in that country, and Gust was, therefore, reared on a farm, coming to America in 1889, when twenty years of age. He located first in Minneapolis, where he remained only for a short time and then came to Wall Lake and thence to the southwestern portion of Sac county. Here he engaged in farm work for some time, and in 1892 went to Denver, Colorado, where he secured employment with the street railway company of that city. He remained there for two years, returning to this county, where, for six years, he rented farming lands. About the year 1900 he saw his way clear to make an investment in land for himself and purchased a tract containing eighty acres, lying across the line in Ida county, for which he paid fifty dollars per acre. This he sold in the spring of 1909 at one hundred and forty dollars per acre, when he purchased his present farm, for which he paid one hundred and thirty-five dollars per acre. Since obtaining possession of this



GUST HAMNERSTROM AND FAMILY



land he has greatly improved it and today it stands worth much more than the amount at which he obtained it. For a time he and his brother, August, owned a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Union county, South Dakota, but after retaining it for about three years they disposed of it to advantage.

On December 11, 1891, Mr. Hammerstrom was united in marriage with Emma Linquist, born in Sweden, the daughter of Jonas Anderson and Caroline Larson, who came to America in the fall of 1888 and located in Ida county. To their union have been born five sons and one daughter. Roy, the eldest, is a student at the Ames Agricultural College and has studied at the Sac City Institute, having also completed courses at the Buena Vista College. The other members of the family, namely: Ralph, a student in the Dennison University, Russell, Howard, Wesley and Garnett remain under the parental roof. Mr. Hammerstrom is a man who keeps himself fully informed on current events, and at the birth of the Progressive party he endorsed the platform laid down by its leaders. His religious affiliation is with the Swedish Baptist church at Arthur, and he is considered one of the best members of that society.

It would be impossible to touch fully upon the struggles of the earlier years Gust Hammerstrom passed in this country and the many hardships he endured in order to get a start, but his later successes have justified whatever sacrifices he may have made at the beginning. He is a man of sterling qualities of character, even-tempered, patient and scrupulously honest in all the relations of life, hospitable and charitable, and he has gained the approval and high esteem of his fellow citizens because of his upright life.

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#### FRANK H. McCRAY, M. D.

Sac county, Iowa, has reason to take pride in the personnel of her corps of medical men from the earliest days in her history to the present time, and on the roll of honored names that indicates the services of distinguished citizens in this field of endeavor there is reason in reverting with gratification to that of Dr. Frank H. McCray, of Schaller, who has attained eminence in his chosen calling and for a number of years has stood among the scholarly and enterprising physicians in a community long distinguished for the high order of its medical talent. He realized early that there is a purpose in life and that there is no honor not founded on worth and no respect not founded on accomplishment. His life and labors have been eminently worthy, because they have contributed to a proper understanding of life and its problems.

Dr. Frank H. McCray, of Schaller, Iowa, was born November 30, 1866, in Henry county, this state, the son of Francis and Esther (Van Vost) McCray. Francis McCray was born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1815, and his wife was a native of Indiana. Her mother's maiden name was Carroll, her grandfather being a Revolutionary soldier. In 1844 Francis McCray and family came to Iowa, settling in Henry county, and were among the pioneer families in that county. As a youth Francis McCray taught school in Mississippi, and as a result of his interest in education he gave all of his children a good, practical educational training himself. Francis McCray and wife reared a family of seven children: Albert, deceased; Orlando, of Great Falls, Montana; Mrs. Sarah Phoneta, deceased, who left two sons, Carl and Earl, and a daughter, Lulu; John N. is now living on the old homestead place in Henry county, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Hart, whose husband is a professor in Amherst College, Massachusetts, and she herself was a former teacher in the State Normal School of Iowa; Martha, deceased at the age of seventeen years; Joseph G., of Trenton, Iowa, and Dr. Frank H. The mother of Doctor McCray was born on November 25, 1832, and died in 1905.

Doctor McCray was educated in the high school at Trenton, Iowa, and then took a course in the college at Sioux City and Elliot's Business College, Burlington, Iowa. He then entered the Northwestern Medical College, Morningside, Sioux City, and took the three years' course offered by that institution, at the same time being interne at Samaritan Hospital. Upon his graduation April 1, 1896, he immediately began the active practice of medicine in Sioux City, and continued in the practice there for one year, at the end of which time he came to Schaller and has been in continuous practice here since April, 1897. He is a member of the Sac County, Iowa State and American Medical Associations and has been secretary of the Sac County Medical Society for the past four years. He takes a great deal of interest in all of the associations which have to do with his profession and keeps well informed upon all the latest developments in medical science. He has a large and lucrative practice and a full share of the business of his community.

Doctor McCray was married in 1896 to Elizabeth Nicholson, who was formerly a nurse in the hospital at Sioux City. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Nicholson, of Holstein, and was born in Scotland. Mr. and Mrs. McCray are the parents of one son, Francis F., who was born October 12, 1899.

Doctor McCray is a Republican in politics and has served on the city council for the past six years. He and his wife are loyal and consistent



members of the Methodist Episcopal church and give to it their zealous support at all times. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was master of the local lodge for three years. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In addition to his creditable career as a member of the most useful and exacting of professions, he has also proved an honorable member of the body politic and has gradually risen in the confidence and esteem of the public of this community since becoming a resident.

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### GEORGE W. JOHNSON.

The life of a veteran pioneer is full of interesting details which are not usually discernible in the writings concerning the commonplace and mediocre. The story of the settlement of Sac county and western Iowa will always have a fascinating effect upon the discriminating reader. What at one time was ignorantly referred to as the Great American Desert has been transformed into a garden of luxuriant fertility unsurpassed in the American continent. Many of the early pioneer settlers were Union veterans, who, becoming restless with the environments of their earlier homes, moved westward with the tide of empire and became important fixtures in stable conditions which later followed the redemption of a wilderness and its subsequent transformation. One of these who has lived a useful and honorable life and is still enjoying the power of enjoyment and possessing a keen zest for all that is good and desirable in living is George W. Johnson, of Schaller, Iowa.

Mr. Johnson was born September 10, 1836, on a farm in Franklin county, Ohio. His father was William Johnson, a native of New York, and who died in July, 1890, at the great age of one hundred and one years. His mother was Mahala Thomas, whose nativity was in the state of Pennsylvania. She lived to the age of ninety-four years, dying in March, 1893. In the year 1838 William Johnson migrated to Belmont, Grant county, Wisconsin, and erected the first territorial capitol building for Wisconsin in the town of Belmont. He then traveled to what is now Sauk county, Wisconsin, across the Wisconsin river, and settled upon an immense prairie farm. Habitations were few and far between in the early days, but William Johnson was a pioneer by virtue of his upbringing and ancestry and he had a broad and favorable outlook of what the future would eventually bring to him and his. They, the father and sons, cultivated an entire section of land in Sauk county, and in time built a beautiful and substantial home in the

midst of the estate. William became very wealthy and was one of the influential and commanding figures of his part of Wisconsin. He and his eight stalwart sons tilled their land with oxen, as horses were not plentiful in those days and the ox was the best beast of burden on many pioneer farms. He was the father of the following children: John; Benjamin; Roswell, deceased; George W.; Thomas, deceased; William and Joseph, of Baraboo, Wisconsin; James, a resident of Rice Lake, Wisconsin. George W. was a member of the Twenty-third Indiana Regiment; Benjamin was a member of the Third Regiment of Union Volunteers; William was a soldier in the Eleventh Wisconsin Regiment, and Joseph enlisted in the Forty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

George W. Johnson enlisted August 13, 1862, in Company K, Twenty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served for two years and eleven months, or until the close of the conflict. He participated in sixteen important engagements, among them being the great battle of Vicksburg, Sabine Cross Roads, Carrion Crow Bayou, Jackson, Mississippi, Jackson, Louisiana, Fort Blakely and the battle of Mobile Bay. It can be truthfully said of him that he was a faithful and willing soldier who uncomplainingly bore the hardships of the soldier's life and was ever ready to take his place in the fighting ranks of the army.

In September, 1865, Mr. Johnson came to Iowa and located on a farm near Grinnell, Poweshiek county, where he resided until 1877. He then migrated to Sac county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 23, Cook township, for a consideration of one thousand seven hundred dollars. He later invested in eighty acres in section 25, just over the line in Boyer Valley township, paying fourteen dollars and fifty cents for his second investment. In the fall of 1892 he disposed of his land holdings at forty-five dollars per acre and moved to Alta in the spring of 1893, but one year later he removed to Schaller and has here made his home. Mr. Johnson's wealth is wisely and safely invested in desirable residence properties located in Schaller and Storm Lake, which yield him a good income from rentals. He devotes much of his time to personal supervision of his properties and to keeping them in good repair. He and his faithful wife have traveled extensively of late years and enjoy their winters in California and Florida each season.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are both members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Johnson is a Progressive Republican, and is a member of Price Post No. 392, Grand Army of the Republic, and is fraternally connected with the

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Eastern Star, of the latter of which Mrs. Johnson is an active member.

Mr. Johnson was married March 20, 1861, to Mary L. Baldwin, a daughter of Philander and Charlotte Baldwin, natives of New York, and who migrated to Wisconsin in 1836 and became pioneer settlers of that great commonwealth. This worthy and progressive couple are the parents of the following children: George, a prominent citizen of Sioux City, who served as chief government inspector of the Sioux City stock yards for over sixteen years and who is now engaged in the cereal manufacturing business; Mrs. Myrtilla A. Satchell, of Schaller, Iowa; Orville C., who died in June, 1903, at the age of twenty-eight years. He was the father of one child, Orville C., who was born four months after his father's death. This son followed the illustrious example of his father and enlisted as a soldier in the Union army for services in the Spanish-American War. His lamented death was caused by his contraction of typhoid fever on the eve of his embarkation for service in the Philippines and which weakened his health to such an extent that he never recovered.

In the plenteous and even serenity of enjoyment of their declining years, secure and peaceful in the knowledge that they have lived a useful and honorable life, we leave this grand old veteran pioneer and his faithful wife to live many, many years more in the esteem of their fellow citizens. This tribute is given with the hope that a perusal of this review will be an inspiration to the reader.

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#### HERMAN HAHNE.

This land of ours owes a debt of gratitude to the stalwart and hardy European races whose sons have come in large numbers, especially during the past half century, where there was a crying need of fearless men to assist in the work of winning and developing the Western states from their primitive wildness. The people of Germany have formed a large contingent and have ever been most welcome owing to their willingness to give their best efforts to this work, being, almost without exception, industrious and law-abiding, willing to upbuild and support our institutions and, while holding in grateful remembrance the native land, yet at the same time cherishing the Stars and Stripes. In their ranks were numbered Herman Hahne, one of Schaller's best known business men and one of Sac county's highly respected citizens.

Herman Hahne, a retired farmer of Schaller, Sac county, Iowa, was born October 19, 1855, in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. His parents were Frederick and Sophia (Dohmeier) Hahne, who were born, reared and married in Germany. Shortly after their marriage they came to America and settled in Sheboygan county in 1848. In 1863 the Hahne family moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, and ten years later settled in Sac county on section 17 in Eden township. They were among the first settlers of the township, and lived here until their death, Frederick dying in 1890 and his wife in 1882. Eleven children were born to Frederick and Sophia Hahne, of whom two died in infancy. The other nine are: Frederick H., deceased; Simon C., deceased; Mrs. Sophia Schorer, of California; Henry J., of Storm Lake, Iowa; Herman; Mrs. Mina Luhman, of Schaller; August, a farmer of Eureka township, this county; Mary, deceased, and William, who is now farming the old home place.

Herman Hahne was seventeen years of age when his parents came to Sac county. He received a good common school education and remained with his father on the farm until he was twenty-three years of age. He then moved to the farm which he now owns, being the southwest corner of section 6 and the northwest quarter of section 7. Part of this first farm was given him by his father, being swamp land which he had bought for two dollars and a half an acre. Herman put up a shack on the farm and "bached" for three years, residing on the farm until the fall of 1882, and then lived with his brother Fred in Schaller until the spring of 1886. He then moved to Kansas and ranched for four years, returning to Schaller in 1890. He went out to Kansas during its boom days, but after some experiences in that state he decided that Iowa was a better state, so he returned to his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Eureka township and cultivated it until 1902. He then lived in Schaller for a couple of years where he engaged in the stock business, then spent fourteen months in California, two years at Beatrice, Nebraska, six years in Lincoln, Nebraska, while his son, Ernest Herman, was in the State University. He then returned to Schaller, where he is now living. At the present time he owns two hundred and sixty acres in Sac county, two hundred and forty acres in Osceola and three hundred and twenty acres in Jefferson county, Nebraska.

Mr. Hahne was married March 4, 1889, to Virgie Kitchen, of Russell county, Kansas. She died March 27, 1912, at the age of forty-eight, leaving one son, Ernest Herman, who was born October 20, 1890. Ernest H. Hahne graduated from the University of Nebraska in the law department

and is now, 1914, a student in Harvard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts. In his politics, Mr. Hahne is an Independent Republican. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

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### ROSS MAYHALL.

Good newspaper men, like poets, are born, not made. The complex duties of a newspaper man require the utmost in energy, courage and judgment, as well as that indefinable quality we call tact. A journalist has many opportunities denied those in other walks of life. His relation to the community is peculiarly one of responsibility. His profession makes him a public man, in a sense, and his opinion upon current topics becomes oftentimes of paramount importance to his community. A chronicler of events, a dispenser of news, he is also the greatest single factor in moulding public opinion.

One of the enterprising young journalists of western Iowa whose heart and brain and versatile pen are readily enlisted in behalf of every worthy cause of the community, is Ross Mayhall, editor and publisher of the *Sac County Bulletin*, of Sac City, Iowa. Mr. Mayhall is a native of Missouri, having been born at New London, Ralls county, that state, on November 8, 1875. He is the son of W. S. and Sarah Jane (Ross) Mayhall, natives, respectively, of New London, Missouri, and Ohio, Illinois.

W. S. Mayhall removed to Illinois in 1872, where he lived three years, and then returned to New London, Missouri, where he remained one year, after which he located on a farm near Ohio, Illinois, where the family made their home until 1895. Removing then to Walnut, Illinois, W. S. Mayhall there conducted the *Walnut Motor*. Disposing of this, he originated the *Mail and Express*, which he also later disposed of, and in 1904 he removed to Tamarack, Minnesota, where he now resides.

Ross Mayhall was educated in the public school near Walnut, Illinois, and the Walnut high school and at Eureka College, pursuing special work and taking a commercial course. After completing his schooling he worked for one year in the office of the *Mail and Express*. He then accepted employment as a clerk in the Chicago postoffice, where he was employed for a period of seven years. In 1907 he purchased the *Sac County Democrat*, and in 1910 he changed the name of the paper to the *Bulletin*.

Mr. Mayhall was married in June, 1903, to Anna Throne, of DePue,

Illinois, and to them two children have been born. One child died in infancy, and J. Ogden Mayhall was born in July, 1906.

Mr. Mayhall is a member of the Christian church, and holds membership with the Modern Woodmen and the Mystic Workers. Politically, he is a progressive Democrat. Through the *Bulletin* he expresses his views in an able and fearless manner and champions all things for the betterment of his community.

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### ANDREW E. JOHNSON.

Andrew E. Johnson, proprietor of the Forest Hill stock farm, located in section 19 of Wheeler township, Sac county, Iowa, is one of the most widely known farmers of the county, having resided in the one township for almost forty years. He is one of the more prominent members of the Swedish colony and, like many others, has reached his present station through his own efforts. His large, attractive residence is thoroughly modern in every respect and is most beautifully situated, being placed on a beautiful hill and surrounded by trees, mostly evergreens, which have been artistically grouped and arranged by the proprietor, some of these trees having been brought over from his native country. In addition to the material attractiveness of this home, it breathes an air of genuine hospitality which is extended to friend and casual stranger alike.

Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden on August 12, 1846, being a son of John Engleson and his wife Essina. The father died in the home country and the mother emigrated to America with the children, locating in Pennsylvania, where she died. The subject still has two sisters residing in that state. It was in 1871 that Mr. Johnson came to America, landing at the port of New York with but thirty-five cents in his pocket, representing the full amount of his worldly goods, but he had other assets upon which no monetary estimate can be placed, attributes of character and marked characteristics which have enabled him, alone and unaided, to attain his present enviable position. His first work in this country was obtained at Smithville, New Jersey, where he stayed for a few months, later working several months in Franklin, the same state. Then he was in New York state for a short time and then went to Canada, where for a time he worked not far from the town of Niagara Falls. It was in 1874 that he first came to this state and, in company with Henry Hanson (an account of whose career will be found elsewhere in this volume), he purchased a tract of land containing three hundred and twenty acres. This









they owned and operated in partnership for four years, when they separated, the subject taking the northeast quarter of section 19 and Mr. Hanson taking the balance. For this land they had paid six dollars and sixty cents per acre. Mr. Johnson continued to work for others, and in 1878 moved on the land which has since been his home. His first residence was a small house with a floor space of fourteen by twenty-two feet, which he later enlarged as he prospered, and this a few years since was superseded by the handsome home the family now occupies. This home farm consists of four hundred and sixty acres and running through it is a fine stream of water, a most coveted object, especially where much live stock is raised. Mr. Johnson raises for the market about fifty head of Aberdeen-Angus cattle annually and one hundred or more hogs. To assist in the work of the farm he keeps eighteen head of fine Percheron horses, and for the proper housing of his live stock he has three large buildings, with all possible equipment, as well as numerous other farm buildings. Mr. Johnson approves modern methods of agriculture and this, together with the excellent management he displays, results in uniformly fine crops. In addition to the acreage of the home farm, he also owns two hundred acres in section 20 of Wheeler township, on which his son Emil resides, which brings his total possessions in land up to six hundred and sixty acres.

In October of 1880 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Augusta Lundberg, also a native of Sweden, born April 14, 1861, and to their union have been born twelve children, out of which family two daughters, Josephine and Lillian, are deceased, the latter dying May 29, 1914, at the age of twenty-nine years. Emil is married and resides on the farm in section 20, as above stated; Seth is also married and is engaged in farming in Wheeler township. The rest of the family are still at home, namely: Elmer, Mabel, Esther, Henry, Enoch, Minnie, Evaline and Joseph. There is one grandchild, Andrew, the son of Emil. Mr. Johnson is a man of marked domestic traits and finds in his home and family his truest enjoyment. To the rearing of his family he gives the most careful and earnest consideration, greatly desiring to fit both sons and daughters for useful lives as they pass from under his guidance to assume their individual places in the world.

Upon becoming a citizen of this great republic, Mr. Johnson found the principles laid down by the Republican party most closely approaching his ideals, and for many years was a staunch supporter of that party, but of late he has been disposed to favor the more progressive attitude. He has ever taken an active interest in politics as related to his community, and for thirteen years served as a school director. His religious affiliations are with the Bap-

tist church, of which he is an active and consistent member. Throughout the years of his residence here, Mr. Johnson has proven himself to be of the highest type of manhood, trustworthy and high-minded in every respect. His accomplishments and the high regard in which he is held by all, prove beyond any question his true qualities, and throughout his community his influence has been only for the best and highest in every phase of life.

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### SILAS STANZEL.

The man who establishes a comfortable home, rears a family of children and performs his duties as an American citizen, is the kind of a man who makes for better civilization and a better nation. Such a man is Silas Stanzel, who has, by honest toil and energy, accumulated three hundred and twenty acres of land in this county, reared an interesting family of children and is performing those duties which are the privilege of every American citizen. Starting in life with nothing, he has made a name for himself as a man of sterling honesty and uprightness and has always so conducted himself that he has never brought censure upon himself or done anything which would militate against his character.

Silas Stanzel was born November 28, 1867, in Clinton county, Iowa. He is the son of William August and Laurinda R. (Clark) Stanzel, natives, respectively, of Germany and Ohio. His father was born in 1838 and died in Odebolt, Iowa, in 1911. He left his native land with his parents when he was fourteen years of age and had the misfortune to lose his mother during the voyage to this country. His father traveled considerable after reaching this country, worked for a time in Illinois and later found employment on the Mississippi river. William Stanzel saved his money and invested it in a farm in Clinton county, Iowa, and in 1876 moved to Sac county, where he first settled in Clinton township. With the exception of one and one-half years which he spent in Ringgold county, this state, William Stanzel lived in Sac county from 1876 until his death in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Stanzel were the parents of eight children: George, of Boyer Valley township; Silas, with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Eva Fuller, of Odebolt; William A., of Odebolt; Mrs. Anna Scott, of Boyer Valley township; Herman R., of Odebolt; Mrs. Harriet Hooper, of Boyer Valley township, and Barnabus, of Clinton township.

Silas Stanzel attended school in Clinton county and in Sac county in

the home of A. F. Ray, his first teacher being Mrs. Ray. He continued to help his father on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he made his first venture into business. He bought a corn sheller and shelled corn for the farmers in his locality. The next year he began farming for himself, although he still operated his corn sheller. He continued to prosper and a few years later he bought a threshing machine, which proved to be a very profitable investment for him. He bought his first farm in Clinton township, this county, and in the spring of 1909 he bought his farm in Boyer Valley township, bought eighty acres for seventy dollars an acre, forty acres in Wall Lake township for ninety-five dollars an acre and two hundred acres at ninety-seven dollars an acre. He is now living on his forty-acre farm in Wall Lake township and he rents his two-hundred-and-eighty-acre farm in Boyer Valley township.

Mr. Stanzel was married August 27, 1889, to Madella Purdy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Purdy. To this union have been born six children: Genia died at the age of twenty-two years, in Colorado, in January, 1911; Bernard died at age of five and one-half years; Bernice, Wayne, Paul and Lola.

The Republican party has always claimed the support and vote of Mr. Stanzel, but, beyond casting his vote for the candidates of his party on election day, he has not had the time to engage in political campaigns. Mr. Stanzel is a man who has always believed in rendering what aid he could to his neighbors and the general public; at the same time he has been advancing his individual interests and consequently is regarded as one of the best citizens of his community.

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#### W. K. WHITESIDE.

No calling, save the ministry alone, has been such a potent factor in the upbuilding of our modern civilization as that of journalism, and certainly no calling exacts such manifold qualifications. Even the humble and unpretending newspaper that goes regularly into the home contributes imperceptibly, but none the less mightily, to the moral and intellectual growth of all the people therein. The modern newspaper molds public opinion, crystalizes sentiment and influences definite action, and is usually the largest single influence in any community.

W. K. Whiteside, editor and publisher of the *Schaller Herald*, of Schaller, Iowa, is one of the enterprising and progressive newspaper men of west-

ern Iowa, and his *Herald* is a power to be reckoned with in local affairs, always fighting valiantly for every public enterprise. Mr. Whiteside is a native of the Buckeye state, born at Seville, Medina county, Ohio, January 7, 1859, and the son of James R. and Maria (Cotton) Whiteside, both also natives of the state of Ohio. James R. Whiteside was born in the year 1835 and migrated to Huntington, Indiana, in 1866, and later to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He was a carpenter by vocation. When a young man he went to Grinnell, Iowa, and there he assisted in building the first house erected in that city. His father, Abram Whiteside, was an old citizen of Ohio, who also located at Iowa City. James R. Whiteside returned to Ohio after a few years in Iowa, and was engaged in furniture and cabinet making. He also followed this business in Huntington, Indiana, and later was employed in the car shops in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In September, 1880, he again removed to Iowa, and was employed at Iowa City and at Cedar Rapids. He later spent a few years in the state of Kansas. He then returned to Ohio, and after his wife's death located at Batavia, New York. Here he spent five years as a rural free delivery carrier. In 1911 he made a trip overland in his automobile from Buffalo, New York, and he died at the home of his son at Wakefield, Nebraska, in November, 1911. His wife, who was born in 1836, died in 1893. Of the seven children born to them only two are now living, the subject of this sketch and E. A. Whiteside, of Emerson, Nebraska.

W. K. Whiteside was educated in the public schools of Huntington, Indiana. As a boy he was employed for a few years in his father's cabinet factory there. His first experience in the printing business was in Huntington, where he secured a small amateur outfit, for which he traded a pistol and two dollars. He soon found employment in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he worked for some time, and in 1881 came with his parents to Iowa City, Iowa. He was employed as a printer at Wilton Junction and at West Liberty. He came to Sac City, Iowa, December 31, 1885, and was employed in the office of the *Sac Sun* until October, 1892, when he purchased the *Schaller Herald*. He was employed, however, at one time as foreman of the *Republican* office at Harlan, Iowa.

Mr. Whiteside was married in 1886 to Ida Faires, of Shelby county, Iowa, and they have two children, Walter and Merle. He is a member of the Baptist church, and holds membership in the Masons, Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen. Politically, he is a Progressive Republican.

Mr. Whiteside is held in high esteem, not only for what he has done for the community through the medium of the *Herald*, but also for his honorable and upright life.

## HON. JOSEPH MATTES.

Eminent business talent is composed of a combination of high mental and moral attributes; although these are essential, there must be sound judgment, breadth of capacity and rapidity of thought, justice and firmness, the foresight to perceive the drifting tides of business and the will and ability to control them to the individual's advantage. It is often found that the successful business man becomes a faithful public official. It is an oft-repeated maxim among our people that if more of our men of business turned their attention to governmental affairs and there applied the same tenacity and grasp of purpose, and exercised their talents on behalf of good government to an equal extent with that which is so necessary to insure their success in a competitive line of business, we would enjoy much better government and have laws more in sympathy with the general welfare at large. As a merchant and legislator, Hon. Joseph Mattes, of Odebolt, Sac county, has attained a certain eminence which has firmly been established in the esteem of his fellow citizens. He ranks as one of the pioneer merchants of this progressive and hustling city, and has made a marked record in the legislative halls as a true representative of the people. He is self-made, as are practically all of our citizens who are born of German parents, and endowed with but little of this world's goods at the outset of their career in this land of opportunity.

Joseph Mattes was born October 1, 1855, in the town of Comanche, Clinton county, Iowa, the son of Roman and Mary (Moore) Mattes, natives of Germany. They were born, reared and married in the fatherland, and emigrated to America in the year 1854, settling in Comanche, where the father conducted a grocery business until 1861, when they removed to Lyons, Iowa. Roman and Mary Mattes reared a family of nine children: Mrs. F. P. Motie, of Spokane, Washington; Mrs. B. Stoessenger, also of Spokane; Mrs. George Keiser, of Eureka, California; J. R. and Joseph, of Odebolt, and four deceased. The mother of these children died in 1904, and the father in 1905. Joseph was educated in the public schools of Lyons, Iowa. After leaving school he was in the employ of Armstrong & Company for a period of seven years. He came to Odebolt in 1879 and was employed for the first five months by Mr. Van Dusen, the hardware merchant. He then became a partner of J. H. Ketterer, the new firm purchasing the stock and good will owned by Van Dusen. This partnership continued until 1887, when Mr. Mattes became the sole proprietor of the business which has de-

veloped into one of the largest in the county. In 1891 he erected a large two-story brick building in which the business is conveniently located. In 1899 he became a stockholder of the First National Bank of Odebolt and was elected vice-president of this institution in 1901. He served as vice-president until 1907, when he was elected president of the bank, a position which he holds at the present time.

Politically, Mr. Mattes is a Republican. He has held, during his residence in Odebolt, several minor offices such as school treasurer for a term of eleven years, and has served as a member of the school board for over sixteen years. He was elected a member of the Legislature in the fall of 1900 and served as representative in the twenty-ninth, thirtieth and the thirty-first General Assemblies. In 1906 he was elected to represent the people in the Iowa State Senate, and was re-elected in 1910. He was a member of the committee on retrenchment and reform in the thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth General Assemblies and was chairman of the committee on appropriations in the thirtieth and thirty-first General Assemblies. He was also chairman of the Senate committee on appropriations during the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly.

Mr. Mattes is a member of the Presbyterian church, and is fraternally connected with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen at Odebolt. He was married in 1879 to Catharine Shelley, of Lyons, Iowa. To this union have been born four children, namely: Grace E., wife of Joseph A. Young, of Bellevue, Iowa; Howard J., a lumber merchant of Rearden, Washington; George H., who is associated with his father, and Hattie E., who died in 1894.

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#### L. B. RAKE.

Success is only achieved by the exercise of certain distinguishing traits and it can not be retained without effort. It is often found that heredity has an important bearing upon the destiny of the individual, but, in the main, his success depends to the great extent upon the cultivation of his talents and the exercise of persistent and indefatigable energy toward a certain goal in life. Those who have succeeded in reaching a place of prestige and have retained the esteem of their fellow men have begun early in life the struggle for supremacy. Nowadays men usually attain official position in their home community through being the known possessors of ability such as will com-



ment them peculiarly to the successful conduct of the duties to which they are assigned by the people. A man of this class is L. B. Rake, treasurer of Sac county, who is a pronounced example of self-made manhood and who enjoys the reputation of being a conscientious, dignified and honest public official throughout the length and breadth of the county.

Mr. Rake was born January 29, 1861, on a farm in Hunterton county, New Jersey, and is a son of Izer G., who was born in 1833, and died in 1875, and who took to wife Amy Buchanan, of New Jersey. Amy Buchanan was the daughter of German parents. She became the wife of William Swallow after the death of Mr. Rake's father, departing this life at Trenton, New Jersey, in 1905. Her parents took up their residence in the city of Trenton in 1857. There were nine children in the Rake family: Andrew H., of Detroit, Michigan; L. B.; Mrs. Amy C. Horton, of Trenton, New Jersey; Aaron R., of Trenton, New Jersey; William C., a resident of Los Angeles, California; Sarah Etta Cezar, also a resident of Trenton; Theodore, of Chicago; Lewis B., who resides in Rice Lake, Wisconsin; one child died in infancy. Izer G. Rake was a Union soldier. He enlisted in the Thirty-first New Jersey Volunteers, along with two brothers, John and Aaron, and served throughout the war, participating in many battles. It is a remarkable fact that the father of Izer G., who was named Elias, was also a soldier in the same regiment. The brothers of Mrs. Rake and her brothers-in-law also fought for the Union in the Thirty-first New Jersey Regiment. It is very evident that L. B. Rake comes of a race of brave and patriotic forbears, which is a distinction of which any American can well be proud.

L. B. Rake was educated in the schools of Locktown, New Jersey. During his youth he worked on farms for five dollars per month and board. Before attaining his majority he traveled in the Carolinas and the South in the employ of a commission firm engaged in the purchase and selling of game, poultry and produce. At the age of twenty-one years he left the scenes of his boyhood days and journeyed to Illinois where he was employed as a farm hand for a period of two years at twenty dollars per month. He again turned his attention to the poultry and produce business, and in season purchased and shipped farm products, including poultry and hay, for the Eastern markets. He eventually formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, George Glass, and the firm did a thriving business in the purchase and shipment to Boston of produce, poultry and hay, which they purchased in southern Illinois and Indiana in quantities to make up carload lots. This business was not without its frequent trials and reverses. At one time, while buying produce in the South, an entire stock shipment was spoiled and he

suffered a severe loss which discouraged him to such an extent that he abandoned the business and returned home. His accuracy in guessing weights and determining quality became proverbial while engaged in stock buying. While waiting around his home town for something to turn up, he was one of a group gathered around a shipment which included fifteen hogs. Various persons proclaimed their ability to guess accurately the weight of the hogs and he was invited to participate. As was the custom, the men pooled guesses at ten cents each. Mr. Rake won the pool by guessing the exact weight of the fifteen porkers which totaled five thousand nine hundred and thirty-one pounds. This good fortune marked the turning point in his career. He received the sum of fifteen dollars and sixty cents, which amount was sufficient to defray his expenses to Morris, Illinois. On his arrival in the Illinois town, he immediately sought and obtained employment at good wages.

In the spring of 1892 Mr. Rake left Illinois and journeyed to Sac county for the express purpose of investing his savings in a farm. Very soon after his arrival he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of undrained land west of Sac City, in Jackson township, at thirty-five dollars an acre. He at once set about the task of improving his land so as to increase the yield and enhance its value as a farm proposition. He did this by ditching, laying tile and thoroughly draining every rod where it was possible to do so. In doing this, he profited by the experience gained during his residence in Illinois. It is no exaggeration to state that to the incoming farmers from the drained sections of Illinois belongs the credit of introducing a new era of farming progress in Sac county. Mr. Rake soon added eighty acres adjoining his holdings, which he bought for fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents an acre. The Rake farm is one of the finest in Sac county. It is fully equipped with all modern conveniences for successful and profitable farming, and is outfitted with a fine set of buildings which have all been erected and remodeled by the owner. The farm residence is situated upon an eminence which gives a glimpse of the city in the distance and is surrounded by beautiful evergreen and deciduous trees, which were planted and grown on the place. The farm land is devoted principally to the production of grains and is very productive. The yield averages, in corn, from sixty to ninety bushels to the acre. Until recently, Mr. Rake was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Minnesota, which he sold at a considerable profit.

Politically, Mr. Rake is aligned with the Republican party. He has served the public in various capacities and has held several township offices. He served for nine years as assessor of Jackson township and was secretary

of the township school board for the same length of time. He has served as president of the Sac County Mutual Insurance Company for a number of years and is at present secretary of the Farmers Lumber Company and the Farmers Elevator Company, all of which are co-operative concerns. He is also a director in the First National Bank of Sac City. The foregoing are but evidences of the confidence imposed in him by his fellow citizens and an illustration of the rewards which are destined to accrue to a man of ability and concentration of purpose. He was elected county treasurer in November, 1910, and re-elected in 1912. His performance of the duties of this very important and responsible office have been eminently satisfactory. Mr. Rake is a stanch member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Sac City and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was married in the year 1885 to Nellie A. Glass, of Illinois. They have no children.

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#### ROBERT LEIGH McCORD.

A member of the bar of Sac county who has shown ability in and devotion to his profession is Robert Leigh McCord. Mr. McCord is a native of Toulon, Stark county, Illinois, born March 13, 1875, to the marriage union of Robert Leeper and Helen (Hopkins) McCord, both natives of the state of Illinois and descendants of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His paternal grandfather, James Bennett McCord, was a native of Georgia, representative of that fine old Scotch-Presbyterian stock that settled numerously in that state in an early day.

Robert Leeper McCord removed to Calhoun county, Iowa, in 1892, and he died in December, 1909. Of the six children born of his marriage with Helen Hopkins three sons are living. These are Joel H. McCord, of Spencer, Iowa; James B. McCord, of Durban, South Africa, and Robert Leigh the immediate subject of this sketch.

Robert Leigh McCord was educated at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and the Iowa State University at Iowa City, Iowa, receiving from the latter institution the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1897, and the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1899. In October, 1900, he came to Sac City, Iowa, where he has since been engaged in the practice of law, a profession which he has ever found worthy of his best efforts and unqualified allegiance. Mr. McCord was appointed county attorney in 1908, and was twice elected afterward by the people to this locally important office.

Mr. McCord was married in June, 1910, to Lily Jane McArthur, formerly of Lake City, Iowa, and to them have come two children, Helen and Ruth Eleanor.

Fraternally, Mr. McCord holds membership with the Masons and the Knights of Pythias. Politically, he is a Republican. He is a high-minded, progressive citizen who takes pleasure in assisting every worthy enterprise that will advance the moral and material well-being of the community.

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### J. WILBUR NEAL.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Sac county, Iowa, the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, J. Wilbur Neal occupies a deservedly prominent place. He has exerted a beneficial influence in this locality for many years, and is at present serving as auditor of Sac county, the duties of which responsible position he is filling to the satisfaction of all, irrespective of party affiliations. He is a representative of one of the oldest and best known families in Sac county, and a citizen whose honor and integrity is unassailable.

J. Wilbur Neal was born in Marion county, Iowa, May 3, 1868, the son of James A. and Susan Emily (Cleveland) Neal, the former a native of Illinois and the latter of Wisconsin. James A. Neal was born in 1842 and is the son of Granville D. Neal, who was a pioneer settler in Illinois and who married Julia Balch, a native of Kentucky. James A. Neal migrated from Illinois to Iowa about 1857, locating in Marion county, where he bought a farm. In March, 1881, he came to Sac county and bought a farm in Coon Valley township. Here he became a prosperous and successful farmer and in due time became the owner of about five hundred acres of valuable land. He gave to each of his children eighty acres of this land, retaining two hundred and forty acres. He served as county supervisor for six years, from 1892 to 1898. The following children were born to James A. and Susan Emily (Cleveland) Neal: Frank, deceased; Mrs. Elgie E. Comstock, of Wall Lake township, Sac county, Iowa; George D., who lives on the old homestead, and J. Wilbur, the immediate subject of this sketch.

J. Wilbur Neal was educated in the district schools, the Sac City high school and Shenandoah College at Shenandoah, Iowa. He followed the active life of a farmer until his removal to Sac City, except one year and a half when he was a resident of Auburn, where he conducted a lumber yard.

He was elected auditor of Sac county in 1910 and re-elected in 1912, and he has made one of the best officials the county ever had, a fact readily conceded by all who are familiar with the history of the county.

Mr. Neal was married in 1894 to Eliza Batie, daughter of Thomas Batie, and they have three interesting children, Frank, Adam and Emma.

Politically, Mr. Neal is an ardent Republican, and has taken an active interest in the welfare and success of his party. Fraternally, he holds membership in the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 178, Chapter No. 58 and Commandery No. 38

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### MALCOLM CURRIE.

An enumeration of those young men of the present generation who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and at the same time have honored the locality to which they belong would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of him of whom this biography treats. The qualities which have made him one of the prominent and rising young men of Sac county have also brought him the esteem of his fellow men, for his career has been one of well directed energy, with a well defined goal in view, combined with strong determination and honorable methods. As a lawyer, Malcolm Currie has evinced ability of a high order, while as a public official he has won the respect and good wishes of his fellow citizens for his continued success in climbing the ladder of success. He has so administered the affairs of the office of county attorney as to win the hearty commendations of his fellow citizens regardless of politics.

Malcolm Currie was born December 5, 1875, on his father's farm in Clinton township, Sac county. He is the son of John and Janet (McGeachey) Currie, pioneer residents of the county of whom an extended and well merited mention is made in the sketch of John Currie on other pages of this volume. The parents of Malcolm Currie were natives of Scotland, who emigrated to America and settled in Clinton county, Iowa, in 1872, and removed to Clinton township, Sac county, in the year 1874. He of whom this biography directly reads attended the district school in his neighborhood, varying the time with farm labor. He was not only an apt student, but he was an energetic worker on the farm. After completing such courses as the district school afforded, he attended the Odebolt high school; then entered Coe College of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and pursued the literary and

classical courses, graduating from this institution with the class of 1901, and was granted the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In the fall of the same year he began his studies in the University of Missouri, at Columbia, and graduated with honors from the law department of this famous institution in the spring of 1905. He was immediately admitted to the practice of law in Sac county and took up his residence in Sac City. Turning his attention to politics in 1906, he was elected to the office of sheriff of the county in the fall of that year and served four years, two terms in succession, or until January, 1911. He was elected to the office of county attorney in the fall election in 1912 and took up the duties of his official position in January, 1913.

Mr. Currie is a tireless pleader of pronounced eloquence and is known as an earnest and thorough worker in his chosen profession, to which he seems peculiarly adapted, by reason of his power of concentration and natural gifts. Since assuming the responsibility of his office he has attracted the attention of the people of his native county by his able and masterly conduct of the matters entrusted to his care officially. His law offices are conveniently located in the State Bank building. He is a director of the Sac County State Bank. In politics he is a pronounced Progressive Republican and one of the leaders in the progressive movement for better government. Descending from a long line of Scotch Presbyterian ancestors, Mr. Currie has naturally adopted the religious faith of his fathers. He is prominent in lodge circles, being a member of the Sac City lodge of Masons, and also holding membership in the chapter and commandery at Sac City.

Mr. Currie was married November 18, 1908, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to Clara M. Austin, a talented teacher of music. Mrs. Currie is the daughter of Nathaniel Austin, whose people were among the first settlers of Ashtabula county, Ohio, and after whom the town of Austinburg was named. Two sons have blessed this happy union, Robert, aged four years, and Bruce, aged two years.

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#### CHARLES BRYNTESON.

The annals of the counties of western Iowa abound with tales of young men who have forged ahead of the regular procession as a natural sequence of their destined end and have reaped rewards for their sterling endeavor which have seldom been equalled in any other section of the great country. Many of them have been the sons of foreign-born parents or have had their

birth on foreign soil. Sac county is peculiarly fortunate in having several bright and rising young citizens of the latter class, among them being the sons of Swedish immigrants, who, it is rightly said, become assimilated into the great cosmopolitan body of Americans more quickly than the average race of Europeans. Sac county is proud of its Swedish-American citizens, who have achieved wonderful progress along all lines of endeavor since the great immigration began over forty years ago. Charles Brynteson, druggist, of Sac City, is a striking example of what can be accomplished in a material and civic sense by a young man gifted with ambition and the necessary energy to progress along well defined lines. He was born in Sweden, September 25, 1884. His parents were Peter and Christina (Olson) Brynteson, who emigrated to America in 1887, when Charles was but three years old. The family arrived in the town of Odebolt in June, 1887, and there Peter followed his trade of carpenter. For over twenty-five years he has been engaged in carpenter work and contracting in this thriving city. Peter Brynteson was born in 1855; his wife, Christina, was born in 1860, and died in 1906. They have reared a family of nine children, namely: Brynte, of Minneapolis; Olaf, who recently proved up a claim near Willard, Colorado; Charles; Jennie, a stenographer, now employed in Minneapolis; and also a resident of Minneapolis; Josephine, who is her father's housekeeper; Florence, Ted and Harold, in school.

Mr. Brynteson graduated from the Odebolt high school at the age of seventeen years and then attended Highland Park College. He studied pharmacy in 1905, was admitted to the practice of pharmacy in July, 1905, and in the following August he took charge of a drug store in the town of Schaller. He held this position until June, 1907. He was appointed county recorder on June 3, 1907, in order to fill a vacancy, removing to Sac City to take up the duties of his office on June 4th of the same year and serving for a term of three years and seven months. In the fall of 1908 he was nominated and elected to the office on the Republican county ticket. In September, 1910, before his retirement from the office, he purchased his drug business in Sac City. His place of business is located in a large room on the main street of Sac City in the heart of the business district. It is completely stocked with the very best of drugs and druggists' sundries and is widely and favorably known as the Rexall store. People easily get the habit of trading at Brynteson's through a personal liking for the courteous proprietor and his clerks, and on account of the fairness in which all transactions are conducted.

Mr. Brynteson is prominently identified with the Republican party in



Sac county and is county chairman of the Republican central committee. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Schaller and the Eastern Star chapter.

Mr. Brynteson was married on September 17, 1913, to Elsie Hechtner, daughter of Charles Hechtner, of Coon Valley township, a leading farmer of the county and former county supervisor, of whom deserving mention is made in the pages of this history.

Mr. Brynteson's friends are legion and he is possessed of a faculty which enables him to succeed in practically any undertaking in which he embarks. He is keenly alive to the necessity of keeping his home city to the forefront in industry and commerce and is usually found in support of all movements which are calculated to increase the trade prestige of the mercantile associations of the city and bring about a better and bigger Sac City in every sense the phrase implies. He is one of the cleanest and one of the most straightforward young men with whom the biographer has had the good fortune to become acquainted, and mere words fail to do justice to his many sterling qualities.

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#### FRANCIS E. GORDON.

It is the progressive, wide-awake man of affairs that make the real history of a community and their influence as potential factors of the body politic is difficult to estimate. The examples such men furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish, and there is always a full measure of satisfaction in advertng even in a casual way to their achievements in advancing the interests of their fellow men and in giving strength and solidity to the institutions which make so much for the prosperity of a community. Such a man is Francis E. Gordon, and as such it is distinctly proper that a review of his career be accorded a place among the representative citizens of the city and county in which he resides.

Francis E. Gordon, secretary of the Sac County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association, was born June 26, 1856, in Schoharie county, New York, the son of S. E. and Anna (Freese) Gordon, both of whom were also natives of Schoharie county, New York, who emigrated to Sac county, Iowa, in March, 1866. S. E. Gordon was a soldier during the Civil War, with a New York regiment, and took up a soldier's homestead in Sac county, on the northwest quarter of section 36 in Douglas township. He

purchased a piece of timber land in the same locality, sawed the lumber and built a good frame house on his homestead, and here he lived until his death, January 29, 1890. His wife died in 1900. He served as county supervisor of Sac county for three terms. He was a prosperous and successful farmer and a highly respected citizen. His landed estate consisted of four hundred and eighty acres, gained through his own thrift, industry and good judgment. Five children were born of the marriage of S. E. Gordon and Anna Freese. Francis E., the oldest, is the immediate subject of this sketch. H. C. Gordon resides at Newell, Buena Vista county, Iowa. M. L. Gordon lives at Brooklyn, Iowa. Mary Gordon died in 1894. Mrs. Nellie (Gordon) Hazard also lives in Buena Vista county, Iowa.

Francis E. Gordon received a good common school education, attending the little "school house on the prairie." He was reared on the farm and amid this healthful influence early learned the value and dignity of honest toil. In 1878 he became a farmer for himself, his father having given him eighty acres of land, and he followed the active life of a farmer until 1894. In the fall of 1893 he was elected secretary of the Sac County Farmers Mutual Insurance Association, assuming the duties of this office January 1, 1894. Since 1900 he has also been president of the Town Mutual Dwelling House Insurance Association, a large concern operating in the state of Iowa, with headquarters at Des Moines.

Mr. Gordon was married in 1878 to Athelia M. Davis, of Lake City, Iowa. They have no children.

Politically, Mr. Gordon is a Republican, and he holds membership with the Advent Christian church, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Gordon is a man of vigorous mentality and strong moral fibre who possesses the necessary energy and business qualifications to discharge worthily the duties of any responsibility with which he may be intrusted. He has achieved eminent success in the special field to which he has directed his efforts and won for himself an enviable place among the leading men of the city and county honored by his citizenship.

The Sac County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association was organized in August, 1875, by S. E. Gordon and others. The first meeting was held June 5, 1875, when a constitution and by-laws was adopted. The first annual meeting was held June 5, 1876. The officers then elected were: Phil Schaller, president; J. N. Miller, vice-president; Joseph L. Dobson, secretary; James Taylor, treasurer. The directors were F. N. Halne, Thomas Batie, J. W. McClellan, A. B. Holmes, S. E. Gordon, J. P. Carr, Oscar

Staley, E. S. Fanning, C. Martin, S. Beeler, William Cory, William Warren, C. N. Levy, John Bence, A. C. Ables and A. Young. The executive committee was S. E. Gordon, William Hawks and John Bence. The records show that at the beginning of the year June 7, 1878, the number of policies in force was sixty-two, representing insurance to the amount of \$50,717.06. Thirty-six policies were issued during the year, of a value of \$34,910.99. S. E. Gordon was chosen vice-president in 1878. The present officers are R. M. Long, president; L. E. Irvin, vice-president; F. E. Gordon, secretary; J. Y. Campfield, treasurer. The directors are C. A. Drewry, Dennis McTeague, F. E. Smith, George B. Gould, John Halling, A. Mason, E. L. Ahrens, Ed. Williams, Charles Hechter, W. W. Rhoades, C. L. Wade, S. E. Peck, William Nutzman, Earnest A. Walrod, W. F. Charles and L. P. Lowry. The number of policies now in force, one thousand seven hundred. Insurance in force, \$3,857,806.00. The company has had a steady and continuous growth, and is now firmly established as one of the best insurance companies in the state of Iowa.

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#### ANTON E. GUNDERSON.

Among the most progressive and thoroughly up-to-date agriculturists of Sac county, Iowa, is the immediately subject of this sketch, who is engaged in farming in Wheeler township, where he owns a homestead comprising three hundred and twenty acres of excellent land and in addition to the arduous duties devolving upon him in the proper care and management of his business, Mr. Gunderson finds time to devote to public interests. Besides being secretary of the Co-operative Store Company and a director of the Farmers Savings Bank of Odebolt, he is township clerk of Wheeler township and also president of the school board, and to the duties of these offices he gives conscientious care and attention.

A. E. Gunderson was born on July 29, 1875, in Chicago, Illinois, the son of John and Anna May Peterson, both natives of Sweden, where John was born in 1844 and Anna May in 1853. It was about the year 1868 when John emigrated from Sweden, coming directly to Chicago, and Anna May came one year later. They were married in Chicago, where they lived for several years, and in the spring of 1880 came to this county, where, in 1875, they had purchased one hundred and sixty acres, being the northwest quarter of section 7, in Levey township. They were among the earlier pioneer residents of this



MR. AND MRS. ANTON E. GUNDERSON



county, and on this farm they passed the remainder of their lives, John dying in 1893 and the wife passing away on July 20, 1901. When they purchased their homestead it was raw prairie land and through unremitting care and labor they converted it into excellent farming land. They were the parents of eleven children, but five of whom came to mature age and of these three are now deceased, being Hulda, Gustave and Amil. Besides Anton E., the immediate subject of this sketch, there is still living Esther (Mrs. Roscoe Robinson), who resides in Spencer, Iowa.

When a youth, Mr. Gunderson attended the district schools of their vicinity, supplementing this later with a course at the Odebolt high school and also the Carroll Normal School. In 1890 his father purchased a mercantile business in Odebolt, known previously as the E. W. Lester store, and the firm was known as Gunderson-Larson-Erickson Company, and in this business Mr. Gunderson spent three years, developing the excellent business ability, which has characterized his later activities. When he was about eighteen years old, his father died and he consequently assumed charge of the family interests, disposing of the mercantile business and taking charge of the estate. In 1898 Mr. Gunderson moved from the old home place to land which he had purchased in section 2 of Wheeler township, which purchase comprised one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid forty-nine dollars per acre. The year previous he had purchased the same acreage adjoining at forty dollars per acre. This tract of three hundred and twenty acres he has since made his home. In 1908 he built an elegant residence of eight rooms, thoroughly modern in every sense of the word, possessing every convenience possible. On his ranch he has two barns, one forty-eight by seventy feet and the other forty-eight by sixty feet; he has, in fact, two complete sets of buildings throughout. He has fifty head of Shorthorn cattle, some of pure bred; produces one hundred head of Duroc Jerseys annually and has twelve head of fine Percheron horses. Mrs. Gunderson also has a fine flock of chickens and confines her efforts to one good breed, preferring the White Plymouth Rocks. Mr. Gunderson has resided on this farm for fifteen years, and in that time has made wonderful improvements, bringing it up to a high state of perfection.

On January 18, 1899, Mr. Gunderson was united in marriage with Grace Goreham, daughter of J. P. Goreham, one of the pioneers of this county. To their union have been born seven children, namely: Hazel, born December 30, 1899; Vernon, born August 1, 1901; Pierce, born May 18, 1904; Paul, born July 27, 1906; Cyril, born May 2, 1909; Eva, born February 4, 1910, and

John Edward, born December 25, 1912. This interesting family of children are being reared along proper lines, are receiving good educations in the Odebolt public schools and in every way are being trained to take their places in the world as useful and intelligent citizens. The family are attendants at the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Gunderson is a faithful member, and are being raised in strict accordance with the tenets of that faith. Mr. Gunderson's fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America and, politically, he gives his support to the Republican party, being decidedly progressive in his views. He is a man of strong personal qualities, who realizes fully his responsibilities in every phase of life and seeks to discharge the duties falling to his lot in a fitting manner. Aside from his business cares and the rearing of his family, he gives his hearty co-operation to every movement having as its object the ultimate benefit of the moral, material or educational life of the community.

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#### C. M. WHITTED.

Among those who have, by virtue of their strong individual qualities, earned their way to a high standing in the estimation of their fellow citizens, and by force of character won their way to a place of influence and prominence in the community, is C. M. Whitted, the present efficient clerk of the district court of Sac county.

Mr. Whitted was born at Monroe, Jasper county, Iowa, October 29, 1882, the son of John and Harriet (Taylor) Whitted. John Whitted was born in 1856, in the same house and on the same farm where the son, C. M., was born. John Whitted is the son of Joseph Whitted, a native of England and a very early settler of Jasper county, Iowa. The farm which he homesteaded is still in the family, being owned by E. E. Whitted, a brother of John. John Whitted married Harriet Taylor, the daughter of William Taylor, a native of England and a pioneer of Jasper county, Iowa. He sold his farm in Jasper county and settled in Calhoun county, Iowa, in 1888.\* His wife died in 1903 and he now resides in Des Moines, Iowa. They were the parents of three children: C. A. Whitted is a farmer near Lake City, Iowa; Mrs. J. T. Edson, of Lake Side farm, Storm Lake, Iowa, and C. M. Whitted, the immediate subject of this sketch.

C. M. Whitted was reared on the farm and received his education in the country schools and the Lake City high school. He came to Sac county,



Iowa, March 3, 1903, and became identified with the Shull Lumber Company, of Schaller, Iowa. He was elected clerk of the district court of Sac City in the fall of 1910, and assumed the duties of his office January 1, 1911. He was re-elected in 1912, and he is now discharging his public duties in a manner highly creditable to himself and to the satisfaction of all.

Mr. Whitted was married November 10, 1905, to Gertrude Sellers, of Schaller, Iowa.

Politically, an ardent Republican, Mr. Whitted takes an active interest in the affairs of his party. Although a partisan, with firm convictions and well-defined opinions on questions on which men and parties divide, he has the esteem and confidence of the people of Sac county, regardless of party ties. Fraternally, he is a Mason, and he holds membership with the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Whitten is a man of sagacity and good business ability, elements which have contributed materially to his success. Genial and accommodating, he has made friends of all who have come in contact with him, and no more popular official is in the Sac county court house than he.

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### ALFRED C. SCHULTZ.

This is an age of progress and material activity, and the initiative man forges to the front in the industrial world. One to whom is due the upbuilding of an industry which is one of the most important in Sac county, is Alfred C. Schultz, manager of the Sac City Creamery Company, an enterprise that has benefited the community in many ways. As secretary of this company, Mr. Schultz has displayed an aptitude for successful management, conducting all his business matters carefully and systematically, and the creamery is today rated one of the substantial enterprises of the locality.

A. C. Schultz was born on a farm, twenty-seven miles from Chicago, in Cook county, Illinois, January 20, 1871, the son of Charles F. Schultz, a native of Germany, who came to America when sixteen years old. He died in 1908. Mr. Schultz's mother came to America when eight years old, and now resides in Cook county, Illinois.

A. C. Schultz left the farm when he was seventeen years old, and worked as an official bookkeeper for the Cook county public service until he was twenty-three years of age. Giving up this work on account of ill health, he went to Platteville, Wisconsin, and, in partnership with his brother-in-law,

engaged in the dairying and creamery business. He was thus engaged for a period of eighteen years, or until 1913, when he came to Sac City, Iowa.

Mr. Schultz was married in June, 1896, to Alma K. Schmidt, of Illinois, and they have five children, Edwin, Robert, Elizabeth, Estelle and Dorothea.

Mr. Schultz is a member of the Masons and the Modern Woodmen. He is also prominent in the National Butter-Makers' Association, having been elected president in 1910. Mr. Schultz, with his associates, is operating six creameries in Grant county, Wisconsin.

The Sac City Creamery Company was established April 27, 1913. It is quartered in a new concrete building, thirty-six by sixty feet in size, and the plant is equipped with the most modern butter-making machinery. The capacity of the plant, with present equipment, is two thousand pounds daily. An additional vat, which has been recently added, has increased the capacity from one to two thousand pounds daily. The product is now five thousand pounds of creamery butter each week. During the favorable season ten thousand pounds is made. During June, 1914, the creamery was run at full capacity.

The Sac City Creamery is a great aid to the farmers of the community, providing a ready market for their milk, and is an enterprise worthy the patronage and support of the people at large.

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### WILLIAM H. TOWNSEND, M. D.

The medical profession is one of the most ancient and the noblest of the learned occupations. It numbers among the fraternity examples of the highest type of manhood and is composed in general of self-sacrificing individuals who have dedicated their lives to the alleviation of human suffering and the amelioration of the condition of the human family in a sanitary and physical sense. The family physician is one in whom we place the highest confidence; we value his skill, which at times seems to border upon the miraculous; we seek his advice in intimate family affairs; in him we frequently confide our troubles and rely upon his matured judgment, knowing absolutely that he is incapable of violating the secrets which are naturally intrusted to his confidence in the course of his practice. The biographer is gratified to present herein a record of one who has not only achieved distinction in the pursuit of his profession, but has served the people of Sac county in an official capacity. It can be said of Dr. W. H. Townsend that he has been worthy

on every occasion of the trusts reposed in him and measured up to the responsibilities placed upon him at various times in a manner worthy of the highest commendation. Intellectually, morally, professionally and officially, he holds high rank as a citizen of Sac City and his adopted county.

Doctor Townsend was born on a farm in Webster county, Iowa, January 19, 1869. His parents were Isaac and Melissa A. (Bradshaw) Townsend, natives of Maine and Canada, respectively. He is a product of a fusion of the best blood of old New England. His grandfather, William Townsend, migrated westward from Maine in a very early day and settled in the state of Wisconsin. Here his parents were married, and in the year 1867 they journeyed to Webster county, Iowa, for the purpose of making a permanent home and rearing a family in the great and growing state. They succeeded beyond their expectations in amassing a competence and bringing up a desirable family, every one of which has succeeded in becoming a valued member of the body politic. Isaac Townsend died in 1888, his wife, Melissa, dying in 1893. The children are as follows: Charles, a prosperous farmer and stockman in Nebraska; Samuel, residing in Webster county; Ida, deceased; Leroy J., of Webster county; Ernest, living in Chicago; George, of Webster county, Iowa; Ray, of Cherokee county, and Dr. William H., of Sac City.

He of whom this chronicle reads received his education in the public and high schools of Fort Dodge and in the Collegiate Institute of the same city. He became ambitious to enter the profession of medicine and therefore matriculated in the Medical College of the State University of Iowa, graduating therefrom in the spring of 1897. Doctor Townsend practiced at Lehigh, Webster county, for a period of two years. In 1898 he hearkened to the call of President McKinley for the enlistment of troops for service in the Spanish-American war and, on June 26, 1898, enlisted as a private soldier in Company G, Fifty-second Regiment of United States Infantry. He was soon appointed an assistant surgeon and served at Chickamauga Park.

He was released from duty at the close of hostilities and in the year 1899 located in Odebolt, where he practiced his profession until 1900, when he established his office permanently in Sac City. His practice is unusually large and he has a clientele numbered among the best and most substantial residents of the city and county. He is allied fraternally with the Sac County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. His political affiliations have long been with the Republican party. Doctor Townsend has served one term as mayor of his adopted city, and four terms as county coroner. In fact, he has served as coroner of the

county since January 1, 1903. By virtue of his office, he became acting sheriff of the county on May 30, 1911, upon the death of Sheriff Alexander Rogers, and served until his successor was duly appointed. During his incumbency of the coroner's and sheriff's offices, a serious murder was committed in the neighborhood, and it devolved upon this versatile gentleman to actually perform the duties of three important offices. He did this ably and to the satisfaction of the people. The inquest was duly held and the murderer apprehended without loss of time. Doctor Townsend is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Sac county and two hundred and eighty acres in Calhoun county, Iowa, both being stocked with registered Polled Angus cattle. He has an elegant home on the heights above the downtown section.

Doctor Townsend and his family are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the Doctor is a liberal supporter of all church denominations. He is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Sac City.

In the year 1900 the Doctor was united in marriage with Eva Roosa, of Sac City, the daughter of Mrs. E. E. Lewis. They have one child, Harold Wayne Townsend, who was born November 30, 1901.

Doctor Townsend is a genial, well-balanced gentleman, who possesses a highly developed sense of personal responsibility in the performance of his public duties and in the practice of his profession. He numbers his personal friends by hundreds and has little difficulty in retaining the friendship of men with whom he is thrown in daily contact during the course of his ministering career.

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### ELIAS TIBERGHIEU.

The life history of him whose name heads this biographical sketch has been closely identified with the history of Sac county, Iowa, which has long been his home. He came here in the pioneer days and throughout the years has been closely allied with its interests and upbuilding.

Elias Tiberghien, retired farmer of Sac City, Iowa, was born in LaPorte county, Indiana, July 24, 1851, the son of Elias and Harriet Melville (Harrison) Tiberghien, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Kentucky. Elias Tiberghien was the son of Zacheus Tiberghien, of supposedly French descent, who moved from Ohio to Indiana, where Elias and Harriet were married. Elias migrated to Iowa in 1856, with eight children. The long

trip was made across country with ox team. Ten yoke of oxen hauled the wagons, with five families. They also had one span of mules, owned by Mr. Rose. It required the ten yoke of oxen to pull the wagons through the Iowa sloughs. The Tiberghiens settled near Cory's Grove, two miles south, in Jackson township, where they lived until about 1876, when the old people moved on their son's place, near Sac City. Elias Tiberghien was born in Miami county, Ohio, September 7, 1810, and died December 19, 1883. His wife, Harriet Melville Harrison, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, August 18, 1815, and died August 10, 1895. Their children were as follows: Mrs. Nancy Slavons, deceased; Mrs. Nellie Staton, of near Sac City; James S., of Sac county; Jeremiah Shelton, of Sac county; Mrs. Elizabeth Cory, who died in 1911; Mrs. Julia Cromer, deceased; Mrs. Ellen Jepson, of North Dakota; Elias, the immediate subject of this sketch; Clarissa, of Sac county; Eli, of Sac county.

Elias Tiberghien was married on September 12, 1880, to Thalia Dart, who was born in Wisconsin on May 24, 1858, the daughter of Charles J. and Naomi Jane (Butterfield) Dart, natives of Vermont, of New England ancestry. Charles J. Dart was the son of James Dart, whose ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War. The Dart family left Wisconsin in 1865 and settled in Sac county, Iowa, near Cory's Grove, on the east side of the river. Charles J. Dart was born in 1824 and died in 1907. His wife, Naomi Jane Butterfield, was born in February, 1826, and died October 13, 1902. They were the parents of six children, named as follows: Mrs. Thalia Tiberghien; Erastus Dart, who lives five miles southeast of Sac City, Iowa; Mrs. Frances Williams, deceased; Mrs. Emma Ahrens, of Sac City, Iowa; George and Warren both died in infancy.

When Mr. and Mrs. Elias Tiberghien were married they settled on a farm of forty acres two miles south of Sac City, on which they lived two years, and then, in 1882, sold out and bought eighty acres of wild prairie land in Coon Valley township. Here they built a home, improved the land and resided until 1896, when they sold out and removed to Missouri, where they bought a farm of one hundred and forty-three acres. In 1900, after a residence of four years in Missouri, they returned to Sac county and bought forty acres on the west side of the river, known as the Warner place, where they lived for five years. In 1908 they again sold out and this time removed to Sac City. Four children have been born to Elias Tiberghien and wife, named as follows: Mark, Mina and Miles are deceased, and Mabel, who was born in Missouri, is a student at the Sac City high school.

Mr. Tiberghien is a member of the Methodist church and, politically, he

is a Republican. As one of the sturdy pioneers and substantial citizens of his locality, he is well-known throughout the length and breadth of Sac county and is a man respected and honored for his daily life. His reputation among men for integrity and high character has gained for him the good will and commendation of not only his friends and neighbors, but of all who have had dealings with him.

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### CHARLES W. FIRTH.

One of the most prominent farmers and largest stock breeders of Levey township, Sac county, Iowa, is Charles W. Firth, who was born May 7, 1866, in Yorkshire, England, the son of George and Margaret (Ridgedale) Firth, and his father and mother are still living in England, the father being seventy-three years of age and his mother seventy. To George and Margaret Firth have been born five children, who are living: James, of California; George, of Nebraska; Charles William, whose life history is here presented; Mrs. Sarah Hugh, of Hull, England, and Margaret, who is still with her parents.

Charles W. Firth came to this country in 1885, at the age of nineteen years. He had no money, but he had what was still better, a determination to succeed and an unusual amount of ability in business lines. He first located in Crawford county, Iowa, and was engaged in the stock business with another man for a year. In 1886 he began business for himself and in two years moved to Sac county, after which he engaged in the stock business in partnership with P. Sargisson, and this connection continued for the next eight years, and he and Mr. Sargisson own ten thousand acres of land in Nebraska and one section in Iowa. In 1898 Mr. Firth moved onto his present farm, where he built a large house in which he is now living. He owns six hundred and twenty acres of land in Levey township and eighty acres in Jackson county, Iowa. He is the largest stock raiser and shipper in the county, shipping three thousand head of cattle annually. At the time this data was secured for his personal sketch, he had five hundred and forty-six head of cattle on his land, which he was feeding at that time for the markets. In addition to his cattle business, he also buys and sells hogs and averages eight carloads annually. He is undoubtedly the largest cattle and hog man in Sac county, and probably handles more stock than any other man in northwestern Iowa. He employs a force of thirty men to attend to his large herds of cattle in Iowa and Nebraska.



CHARLES W. FIRTH





Mr. Firth has been twice married, his first marriage occurring August 22, 1893, to Bessie Bancroft, who died September 14, 1895. She was born September 14, 1872, in Anderby, Lincolnshire, England, and was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Bancroft. She came to America with her parents in 1888, and settled in Madison county, Iowa. To Mr. Firth's first marriage was born one daughter, Leona Esther, who is now twenty years of age. She graduated from the West Side high school and also from Denison College, and is now a teacher. The second marriage of Mr. Firth was to Hester Jane Jolly, which occurred November 18, 1896. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Jolly, of Wall Lake, pioneer settlers of this county, and to this second marriage have been born eight children: Charles Robert, born April 3, 1898; Grace Geneva, born May 30, 1899; Arthur Valvern, born June 1, 1900; Margaret Lucile, born November 4, 1907; Isla Jane, born December 28, 1908; Helen, born August 30, 1910; Bernice Jeannette, born March 17, 1912, and Pearl, born June 8, 1913. Mrs. Firth was born April 3, 1877, in Clinton township, this county, and is a woman of charming personality and pleasing manners. Few residents of Sac county are as well and favorably known as Mr. and Mrs. Firth and none stand higher in the esteem and confidence of the community in which they reside.

Politically, Mr. Firth is a Republican, but his many business interests have prevented him from taking an active part in politics. He and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church, and, fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and maintains his membership in the Scottish Rite, in Parvin Consistory No. 5, at Sioux City. His influence has always been on the side of right living, and while he has been more than ordinarily successful in business, yet he has never forgotten the duties which he owes to his family, his state as a citizen, or to any of the higher duties which make the best American citizens.

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### GEORGE LUCIAN STOCKER.

One of the distinctive functions of this publication is to take recognition of those citizens of the community who stand representative in their chosen spheres of endeavor, and in this connection there is propriety in according consideration to George Lucian Stocker, a pioneer citizen of Sac county who has figured in the varied life of this locality for a long lapse of years.

George Lucian Stocker was born at Coldwater, Michigan, March 9,

1841, and reared in Steuben county, Indiana. He is the son of George and Charlotte E. Brown (Lee) Stocker, the former a native of near Rutland, Vermont, and the latter of New York state, who removed to Steuben county, Indiana, in 1842, and about 1867 removed to Sac county, Iowa, settling on a farm in Douglas township. Here George Stocker died in 1885 and his wife died in 1889 at Salem, Steuben county, Indiana, where she had gone on a visit to relatives, after her husband's death. Mrs. Stocker had been previously married to a Mr. Lee, by whom she had one son, Clark E. Lee, who died in the service of the Union army during the Civil War. Three children were born to her second marriage, as follows: George Lucian, the immediate subject of this sketch, and Mrs. Mary Carver and John L., both of whom are deceased.

George Lucian Stocker came to Sac county, Iowa, from Steuben county, Indiana, in June, 1856. He took up the task of breaking up forty acres of prairie land which his father had bought in 1855. During these days he did a great deal of hunting and trapping, varving the time with occasional trips back to his Indiana home. In 1868 he settled on section 4 in Douglas township.

During the Civil War Mr. Stocker enlisted for service in the Union army, but was rejected. He journeyed to Cedar county and resided with an uncle. In the fall of 1862 he joined a government train and went to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he hired out for four years. He was a "bull whacker" up and down the Missouri river and in the Dakotas, going up the Missouri river as far as Fort Thompson.

On February 20, 1866, Mr. Stocker was married to Mary Jane Barclay, a native of Unadilla, Otsego county, New York, daughter of Hugh Barclay, an early settler of Sac county. She was born July 8, 1841. In March, 1881, they removed to Sac City, where Mr. Stocker engaged in the livery business for two years. He served as deputy sheriff under H. L. Wilson for three and one-half years, under Tom Beattie for one and one-half years, under Had Allen for three and one-half years, and under Adam Teppel for about four years. He was also constable during this time. For five years Mr. Stocker was night marshal of the university grounds at Ames, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Stocker have two children and one adopted child. Nellie died in 1882; Fred is boss of carpenter crew at the college at Ames, Iowa, and Ebenezer Cook, an adopted son, is county auditor at Washburn, North Dakota.

Politically, Mr. Stocker is a Progressive, and he holds membership with

the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He is a past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and past noble grand of the Odd Fellows.

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### JAMES ELMER AUSTIN.

One of the enterprising men of Sac City who, by close attention to business, has achieved success and risen to an honorable position among the progressive men of the county with which his interests are identified, is J. E. Austin, city marshal of Sac City, Iowa. Mr. Austin is one of those estimable citizens who commands respect because he has performed well his duty in all relations of life.

Mr. Austin was born January 22, 1863, and is a native of the state of Nebraska. He is a son of John Gilbert and Maria (Tufts) Austin, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Wisconsin. John G. Austin was born in the year 1835 and came to Sac county with his father, Leonard Austin, in 1852. Maria Tufts was the daughter of Joseph Tufts, an early settler in Sac county, and she came to this county with an uncle. John G. Austin and Maria Tufts were married in Sac county and went to Nebraska, but returned here in April, 1863, and had a farm near Sac City, where they lived until about 1896. They were the parents of five children, named as follows: John, who lives in South Dakota; Mrs. Almina Fletcher, who also lives in South Dakota; William V., of Fonda, Iowa; Edward, who is the Standard Oil Company's representative at Sac City; James Elmer, the immediate subject of this sketch. John G. Austin died in 1901. At the time of his death he was city marshal of Sac City, and he was a man who had the respect of all who knew him.

J. E. Austin was reared on the parental farm and followed the active life of a farmer until 1898. At the age of twenty-three he married and rented a farm in Jackson township, where he lived for three years. He then lived for five years on his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining Sac City, after which he bought a residence in Sac City and removed to town, and for the following three years was in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. In 1907 he became deputy sheriff of Sac county under Sheriff Currie, and served in this capacity for three years, or until 1910. He is now serving as city marshal of Sac City, having succeeded his father in this position at his death. He is generally conceded

to be a very efficient and trustworthy official, and has the support and confidence of the community.

Mr. Austin was married in 1886 to Nellie M. Nichols and they are the parents of five children: Clarence lives at Lake View, Iowa; Leonard; Mrs. Eveline Stutzman, of Corning, Iowa; Charles and Lloyd.

Politically, Mr. Austin is a Republican, and he is a member of the Woodmen of the World.

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### WILLIAM J. FINDLEY, M. D.

It is not always easy to discover and define the hidden forces that move a life of ceaseless activity and large professional success; little more can be done than to note their manifestations in the career of the individual under consideration. In view of this fact, the life of the able physician whose name appears above affords a striking example of a well defined purpose to succeed along the lines of the noblest of professions, for which he was inclined through native ability and a natural heritage. A long and successful career in the practice of medicine has broadened and widened his sphere of influence until Dr. William J. Findley stands in the forefront of the medical profession through sheer worth and excellence of his inherent qualities. Twenty years of continuous exercise of his talents in the alleviation of the pain and suffering of his fellow human beings, several years of this experience being under the direct guidance of his eminent father, who ranks among the most widely known of the pioneer physicians of Iowa, has eminently fitted him for the maturity of his calling.

Dr. William J. Findley, of Sac City, was born January 1, 1860, in Warren county, Iowa. His birthplace was in the town of Green Bush, now better known as Spring Hill. His parents were Dr. David Findley, who was born August 31, 1830, and Martha J. Barr Findley, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania. David Findley was a native of Guernsey county, in the old Buckeye state, and was a graduate of Keokuk College of Medicine. He came west when a young man and first studied medicine in the office of Dr. William Anderson, of Warren county. He had previously married in Ohio and traveled to the west in a prairie schooner in 1859. He removed to Grove City, Cass county, in 1862, and the following year removed back to Indianola, Warren county, and after one year there returned to Lewis, Cass county, where he lived for the following twelve years. In 1876 he removed to Atlantic, Iowa, and it is recorded of him that he prac-

ticed medicine in Cass county for the long period of forty-seven years; in fact, he continued in the exercise of his calling until his death, in 1910. His highly successful and honorable career is extensively recorded in the annals of his adopted county. Doctor and Mrs. Findley were the parents of seven children, five of whom are yet living, namely: S. C. Findley, of Atlantic, Iowa; Dr. W. J. Findley; Mrs. G. W. Noble, of Omaha, Nebraska; Dr. Palmer Findley, of Omaha, Nebraska, and Miss Mayme Findley, of Atlantic. The mother of these children died August 2, 1912.

He with whom this biography is intimately concerned was educated in the Atlantic schools and graduated from the high school of his native city. He then studied in the collegiate department of the State University at Iowa City and later completed a course in the New York School of Pharmacy. For a period of twelve years, from 1879 to 1891, inclusive, he practiced pharmacy. In the fall of 1891 he entered the Northwestern University of Chicago and graduated from the medical department in 1894. He practiced with his father for five years at Atlantic, and in 1899 located at Sac City. Success has attended Doctor Findley from the beginning of his career in Sac City, and his clientele is considerable. Since the date of his graduation, he has pursued several post-graduate courses in Chicago and keeps abreast of all new developments in his chosen profession. Doctor Findley is yet a student and is ever seeking to better and broaden his knowledge of the science of medicine and surgery. He is a member of the Sac County Medical Society, the Iowa State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. By virtue of his position as local surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, he is a member of the Association of Railway Surgeons. Politically, he is allied with the Republican party. He has filled various local offices in the city and has always taken a live interest in civic affairs which concerned the well-being of his neighbors and fellow citizens of the municipality. He has served as a member of the local school board and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Doctor Findley was united in marriage with Elizabeth Truesdale, formerly of Atlantic, Iowa, in 1899. They have two children, who are attending the public schools, namely: Ellinor, aged sixteen years, and Evelyn, aged fourteen. Doctor Findley is also a registered pharmacist, and has had hospital experience in the Cook County Hospital and the Merry Hospitals, located in Chicago.

Reverting to the subject's ancestral record, it may be stated that Dr. David Findley was the son of Rev. Samuel Findley, a minister of the United Presbyterian faith, and who was a traveling missionary in Iowa as early as 1847.

It is recorded of him that he traveled from Ohio to Iowa on horseback and for a time spread the gospel according to the Presbyterian faith among the early settlers of the new and growing state. Rev. William T. Findley, a son, had charge of a church in Newark, New Jersey, and cared for his father in his old age until his death. The wife of Rev. Samuel Findley was Margaret Ross, a native of Ireland. Dr. David Findley was married August 26, 1856, to Martha J. Barr, of Monongahela City, Pennsylvania, and daughter of James Barr. He first studied medicine under Dr. W. M. Anderson, of Antrim, and came to Iowa in 1859, receiving a diploma from the Keokuk College of Medicine a few years later. He was one of the original "Forty-niners" who made the trip from New York through the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco in 1852 and was shipwrecked, having a narrow escape from death when the good ship "Independence" was wrecked on the south coast of California in 1853, two hundred and fifty out of five hundred passengers being drowned. The ancestors of Martha J. Barr, on her mother's side, were named Kennedy, and came to America from county Antrim, Ireland. They first settled at old Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania, in 1781, and entered land in Washington county, Pennsylvania, which is yet held by their descendants. Her father, James Barr, was a captain of volunteers in the Seminole War. He enlisted in the United States army two different times and died of fever contracted in the Seminole swamps.

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#### ABSALOM CUNNINGHAM.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record a concise account of his career from birth to the final rounding out of a life of usefulness such as has been enjoyed by the citizen whose name is inscribed at the head of this brief narrative. His character has been established through the estimation in which he is held by neighbors and friends. Like many successful men of the West, he is selfmade and from a modest and small beginning he has amassed a considerable competence through the exercise of industry and close application to the promotion of his agricultural operations. Absalom Cunningham is one of the respected and substantial retired citizens of Sac City, and during his time was one of the best known and most successful tillers of the soil within the confines of the county. His sterling worth and great personal integrity is beyond question in the land of his adoption.



A. Cunningham was born in 1860 on a farm in McLean county, Illinois. His parents were J. M. and Eliza (Buxton) Cunningham, natives of the great state of Pennsylvania. J. M., the father, settled in McLean county on a farm of considerable area in the year 1858 and there reared his family and departed this life. His family numbered four sons and four daughters, as follows: Adeline, deceased; William, of DeWitt county; Mrs. Elizabeth Hubbell, of Illinois; Mrs. Hannah Carr, of Illinois; Frank Cunningham, deceased; Absalom; Cora, deceased.

He of whom we are narrating these facts was married in 1880 to Jennie Ellis, of DeWitt county. After a wedded season of twenty-five years, the wife died, in March, 1905, leaving eight children, namely: Clovis, now deceased; Mrs. Clotilda Pullen, of Sac county; Clem E., a resident of Sac City; W. Ashley, also a resident of Sac City; Carl A.; Helen and Josephine. After leaving DeWitt county, Mr. Cunningham resided on a farm upon which he removed in 1862. In 1898 he removed to Sac county and in the spring of that year he made a purchase of three hundred and twenty acres of fine land in Cook township, located four miles west of the town of Early. He used the skill and a natural aptitude for agriculture in its highest sense which is possessed by the greater number of the Illinois farmers who have located in Sac county of late years and brought his farm land up to a high state of cultivation. It is well improved with excellent buildings and is known favorably as one of the best crop-producing tracts of land in a county famous for its fine farms. In 1912 Mr. Cunningham decided to retire and he came to Sac City and purchased a fine residence in the west part of the city. In December of the same year he was united in marriage with Mrs. Ida (Prentice) Willard, the daughter of Hosea Prentice, a native of Vermont and a descendant of an old New England family which traces their ancestry back to colonial days. Hosea Prentice early migrated to southern Wisconsin, and thence to Illinois. He came to Iowa in the year 1874 and settled in Sac City where he became prominently identified with the upbuilding of the city. He was both farmer and merchant, succeeding well in both lines. He broke prairie land when he first located in the county and later engaged in mercantile pursuits in the city. In 1869 he made a trip to the county and purchased the land where the town of Early now stands—in fact, the town is located on the original Prentice farm. Hosea was married to Diantha Surdam, of New York, who died in 1887. He again married and was the father of eight children, four of whom were reared to maturity: Harlow Prentice, of Cleg-horn, Iowa; George W., of Bakersfield, California; Ann Eliza Stafford, now deceased, and Mrs. Cunningham. Mr. Prentice was the second mayor

elected in Sac City and was a member of the town council for a number of years. He was a useful and influential citizen who is yet remembered as one of the best men who assisted in bringing the city to the high prestige which it now enjoys. He died December 5, 1910, at the age of ninety-one years. It is such men as Mr. Cunningham that have been instrumental in bringing the agricultural possibilities of Sac county to the front among the fertile counties of western Iowa and words fail in this instance to express the biographer's appreciation of his capable and useful life as exemplified by his accomplishments.

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### WILLIAM QUIRK.

From the little isle of Man, which lies between England and Ireland, there have come to this country some very enterprising and successful citizens. The Quirk family is probably the only family in Sac county who were born in this island. William Quirk, pioneer settler, was born on March 6, 1848, and is the son of Thomas and Eleanor Quirk, who also were natives of the isle of Man. When Mr. Quirk was nineteen years of age he decided to leave his native land and come to America. He had already received a good, practical education and had saved up enough money to pay for his passage to this country. Accordingly, in 1867, he crossed the ocean and went direct to Chicago, where he worked for three years. He was in that city at the time of the great fire, having previously lived in Davenport, Iowa, for a short time. While in the latter city he was a market gardener. Later he went to Omaha, where he worked for a year, and in 1874 came to Sac county and remained here for a few months. Then he returned to the isle of Man, and in 1875 he permanently settled in Sac county, renting a farm in Levey township. A year later he bought eighty acres of railroad land at a cost of six dollars an acre, and in 1876 he bought forty acres and in 1883 he added one hundred and twenty acres to his farm, and he is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of fine farming land in Clinton township, in section 34. He erected an attractive home in 1886, which is set back from the road amidst a large grove of evergreen and deciduous trees. He has set out a grove of evergreen and deciduous trees and an orchard and his woods has now grown to such an extent that he is now supplied with firewood and lumber from the trees which he had planted nearly forty years ago. He raises and feeds a large number of cattle and hogs each year. In 1913 he had about one hundred head of cattle and seventy-five head of hogs for the market.

Mr. Quirk was married in 1880 to Margaret Christian, who died four



MRS. AND MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN



years later, leaving four children, Charles, Walter, Maud and Minnie. Maud is a nurse in Marshalltown, Iowa, and the other three children are still living in this county, Walter and Minnie being with their father. In 1886 Mr. Quirk crossed the ocean and was married to Elizabeth Hudson, who also is a native of the isle of Man, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Hudson. Mr. Quirk returned to his home in Sac county in the summer of 1886 with his bride after his second marriage, and there they have since resided. To this second marriage have been born six children: Madge, a trained nurse of Marshalltown, Iowa; Archie, a farmer living in Clinton township, this county; Ella, who is attending the Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Percy, Harry and Francis, the last three named being still at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Quirk has always been identified with the Republican party and has taken an active interest in politics since becoming a resident of this township. He has held no less than four different offices in his township, a fact which testifies to the high esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens. He served as justice of the peace, assessor, township trustee and school director, and in all of these four official positions he has discharged his duties in a manner highly satisfactory to his constituents. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Wall Lake, and, religiously, he and his family are earnest and loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are interested in the various activities of that denomination. Mr. Quirk represents that type of men who push their way to a position of affluence solely through their own efforts. He came to this county with practically nothing, and is now one of the enterprising and substantial citizens of his community and township.

Mr. Quirk has twice visited the scenes of his boyhood in Europe or England and has crossed the ocean five times during his lifetime, a distinction which has been conferred on but few Sac county pioneers.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY CRISS.

The history of Sac county, as an integral part of the great commonwealth of Iowa, reveals the handiwork of many a great and noble soul who wrought heroically and unselfishly. Her splendid homes, her fine institutions, her happy, prosperous people speak volumes of some one's steadfastness of purpose, of some one's strength of arm, courage of heart, activity of brain—

of some one's sacrifice. But time, that grim obliterator, before whose destroying fingers even the stubborn granite must, in the end, succumb, is ever at his work of disintegration. Beneath his blighting touch even memory fails, and too often a life of splendid achievement and good works is forgotten. "Lest we forget," then, these words are written in tribute to the late Hon. Eugene Criss, distinguished father of William Henry Criss, whose name heads this sketch. Hardy pioneer, successful farmer, trusted public official, brave, kindly, generous man, it must be the desire of all who knew him that his deeds and his character be recorded for the benefit of those who follow after. He was rich in a thousand thronging memories of the early rugged days in Iowa, when hardy men stood shoulder to shoulder and fought for the best interests of their community. Those who survive him are blessed in the memory of this good man, whose long life in this community was a blessed benediction on those who came under its influence.

Hon. Eugene Criss was born in Preston county, West Virginia, July 27, 1822, and he was a son of Michael and Maria (Armstrong) Criss, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ireland. Michael Criss was a Methodist Episcopal minister. Maria Armstrong was reared in the city of Philadelphia, whither she had accompanied her parents from Ireland when she was three years of age. Judge Eugene Criss was educated in the common schools of Maryland. He came west in 1844 and settled in Galena, Illinois, where he worked in the lead mines for five years. He then farmed for two years. He later opened a general merchandise store at Shullsburg, Wisconsin. In August, 1855, he came to Sac City, Iowa, making the trip from Wisconsin in a wagon and traveling four months on the journey. He erected the first log building in Sac City, sixteen by twenty feet in size, hauling the doors and windows from Dubuque, a distance of two hundred and seventy miles. He also built a saw mill and a flour mill. He pre-empted a claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sac county, and by thrift and good management added to his holdings until his landed estate consisted of one thousand five hundred acres. He was one of five men who entered the land where Sac City now stands. He donated the land for the first cemetery in Sac City. In the early days he was an Indian trader, and was the first fur buyer north of Des Moines. He helped organize the First National Bank of Sac City, and for many years was its vice-president. Politically, he was first a Whig and later a Republican, and he took an active and influential part in the political affairs of his county and state. He served as provost marshal during the Civil War, and at different times served as county supervisor and sheriff of Sac county. He also served one term as county judge, and in 1868 repre-

sented the northwestern Iowa district in the Legislature. Judge Criss was identified with nearly every important movement of his day in Sac county—in fact, his life was so closely interwoven with all the vital forces of civic welfare that to lay stress upon any particular achievement would be but random acknowledgment of a career singularly fruitful of just and honorable deeds.

Judge Criss was married March 9, 1843, to Frances Hall, of Preston county, West Virginia, who was born May 16, 1823, in Monongahela county, West Virginia, the daughter of Jesse and Sarah Hall. Six children were the fruits of this marriage, named as follows: Mrs. Mary Jane Wine, born February, 1846, lives at Mason City, Iowa; James S. Criss, born November, 1846, lives at Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Helen B. Davis, born 1848, is deceased; Mrs. Nancy Emeline Lamoreux, of Houston, Texas; William H. Criss, of Sac City; Mrs. Lola M. Beimer died in December, 1897.

Judge Eugene Criss died March 11, 1903, in his eighty-first year. His eightieth birthday was celebrated by a big barbecue at the fair grounds, which he then owned. Thousands of people attended this gathering as a testimonial of their affection and esteem for their fellow townsman, full of honors and rich in the wealth of a legion of friends. Judge Criss fed this entire assembly, whose merriment during the day made him very happy. He died with his splendid individual powers matured to the point of large and worthy accomplishment, and to those who follow he left the priceless heritage of a good and honored name.

William Henry Criss, the son of Judge Eugene and Frances (Hall) Criss, was born in Sac City, Iowa, July 17, 1857. He received his education in the schools of Sac City, and when a young man he assisted his father in his farming operations and cattle raising. He was the only one of the children to remain at home. With a wisdom worthy of emulation, he has never caught the lure of wanderlust, but has been content to make the most of the opportunities that may always be found at home. For fifty-six years he has lived in Sac City, and during this long and eventful time he has not been out of the town but about six weeks. He is regarded as one of the best and most substantial citizens of the community. He has a farm of eighty acres near Sac City, well stocked and well improved, and was formerly an extensive stock raiser.

William H. Criss was married October 24, 1886, to Alice L. Bechler, who was born in 1864, daughter of George and Hannah Bechler, natives of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Illinois in 1867, and eight years later, in 1875, came to Sac county, Iowa, and settled on a farm five miles north of



Sac City. George Bechler died September 10, 1905, and Hannah Bechler, his wife, died September 3, 1913. These parents had eight children, two dying in infancy. The others are: Mrs. Emeline Emmett, who lives in Pennsylvania; Calvin Bechler, who resides in the north part of Sac City; Mrs. Sarah Staley, who lives in Illinois; Robert Bechler, a farmer in Douglas township, Sac county; Mrs. Elizabeth Neitherworth, of Sac City, and Alice L., the wife of the subject of this sketch.

William H. Criss and wife have six children, as follows: Leon is at home; Mrs. Una Chapman, of Kearney, Nebraska; Eugene and Georgia are twins, and the former is at home and the latter lives at Kearney, Nebraska; Glen lives at home, as does also Verlyn.

Politically, Mr. Criss is a Republican, and he and his wife and children are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Criss also holds membership with the Mystic Workers. Measured by the true standard of worth, Mr. Criss belongs to that praiseworthy class which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country. Personally, he is whole-souled and genial, a man who all are always glad to meet, and he is held in the highest regard in the community which has been honored by his residence for over half a century.

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#### ERNEST L. AHRENS.

Self-educated and self-trained men in all walks of life are usually found to be of a high type of individual in practically every community. Their horizon has been broadened; their faculties have been highly developed; their mental calibre is found to be of the strongest, and their business ability is generally recognized as above the average. Wherever we find a successful merchant, it is discovered that the results of his attainments are due to his close application to the details connected with his business and his success due in a great measure to his personal integrity and energy in overcoming obstacles which may have during the past placed themselves in his path. E. L. Ahrens, senior member of the firm of Ahrens & Lowry, Sac City, belongs properly in the highest class of progressive men of business. To his foresight and business acumen we can safely give the credit for the establishment of one of the most successful and prosperous establishments in a city noted for its fine and well stocked stores. Although not born nor reared to a life of mercantile pursuit, he has demonstrated that he possessed the necessary ability to establish and build up a thriving concern which is a credit to the community.

The hardware business of Ahrens & Lowry was begun in a limited way by Mr. Ahrens in the year 1899, when he left the farm and started a plumbing shop on the main thoroughfare of the city. This shop met with instantaneous success, and a line of hardware was gradually added to accommodate the ever-increasing patronage. L. P. Lowry became a partner in the year 1906, and additional capital provided by his entrance into the partnership enabled the new firm to branch out and install a larger and more varied stock of goods. The firm owns its own handsome brick building, the main show room being twenty-two by one hundred and thirty-two feet in extent. They carry a complete and modern stock of hardware, plumbing and heating apparatus and supplies. A completely fitted plumbing shop is also maintained, the business requiring the services of five employees.

Biographically speaking, E. L. Ahrens was born on February 2, 1860, at Belle Plain, Iowa. He is the son of German parents, his father, Christian Ahrens, having been born and reared in the fatherland. His mother was Amelia Schroeder, likewise a native of Germany. His parents emigrated, with their respective families, to Iowa in an early day. They met and were married in the same neighborhood of the original place of settlement. Both died in the town of Belle Plain. Christian was the father of six children, namely: Mrs. Amelia Tischer, of Sac City; W. W., of Plain View, Nebraska; Ernest L.; Samuel, of Belle Plain, Iowa; C. A., of Marshall, Minnesota, and G. R., also a resident of Belle Plain, Iowa. E. L. Ahrens received his primary education in the district schools near Belle Plain and was reared on a farm, learning the secrets of soil cultivation from his German parents. In the year 1880 he removed to Sac county and established himself on a farm in Wall Lake township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which his father had previously purchased in his behalf with the understanding that the son was to repay him from the proceeds of his farming operations. This was an excellent arrangement, which is deserving of emulation by every father who has sons whose desire it is to succeed along agricultural lines. We must credit Christian Ahrens with remarkable foresight and a keen parental desire to see his children prosper while the father was yet among the living. E. L. did not belie the parental expectations, and it is to his credit that he soon paid off his indebtedness and has added to his original acreage from time to time. He is now the owner of four excellent farms in Sac county, consisting of the original farm of one hundred and sixty acres, one of eighty acres, one of one hundred and thirty acres, and another very good one of one hundred and forty acres, making a total acreage of five hundred and ten acres. All of these farms are well improved and are provided with

good buildings and fencing. Mr. Ahrens has them rented out to responsible tenants. So diligently did he apply himself to the task of cultivating his land that his health gradually failed him and he found it necessary to discontinue farming and removed to Sac City in the year 1897. During his residence in the country he had taken up the study of penmanship, bookkeeping and commerce, so that he came to the city well fortified to engage in a pursuit for which he had a natural aptitude. During his spare time and of evenings he studied diligently and increased his knowledge so that he would be better prepared to embark in a business pursuit when it would become necessary for him to abandon agriculture permanently.

Politically, Mr. Ahrens is allied with the Republican party. He takes an active interest in municipal affairs and believes it to be the duty of every citizen to assist in every possible manner in pushing forward the growth and progress of his home city. He has served as school treasurer of Wall Lake township and has filled the office of city councilman. He is one of the best known members of the Christian church of Sac City. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Brotherhood of American Yeoman, the Odd Fellows and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he is a Knight Templar.

Mr. Ahrens was married in 1883 to Emma Dart, a daughter of C. J. Dart, one of the pioneer settlers of Sac county. He is the father of the following children: Pearl, the wife of Homer B. Ford, merchant of Seattle, Washington; Ida V., a student in the State Agricultural College, at Ames, Iowa.

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### JAMES WILLIAM TIBERGHIEH.

Specific mention is made in the following paragraphs of one of the worthy citizens of Sac county, Iowa—one who has figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its progress, contributing in a definite measure in his particular sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Additional interest attaches to his career from the fact that his life from boyhood until now has been passed within the borders of this county. Earnest purpose and tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and every-day common sense, have been among his most prominent characteristics and he well merits the respect and esteem which are accorded him by all who know him.

J. W. Tiberghien, one of the well-known farmers of Jackson township,

Sac county, Iowa, was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, March 17, 1838, the son of Elias and Harriet Melville (Harrison) Tiberghien, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Kentucky. Elias Tiberghien was born in Miami county, Ohio, in 1810, and he was the son of Zacheus Tiberghien, a native of France, who settled in Ohio in 1822. He subsequently removed to Jasper county, Iowa, and later to Sac county, arriving May 19, 1855, making the journey overland by ox team. Four families and part of another family, twenty-one people in all, made the trip, which required nineteen days, a distance of one hundred and thirty-five miles. He settled in Jackson township and became one of the substantial citizens of his locality. His death occurred December 19, 1883. His wife, Harriet Melville Harrison, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, August 18, 1815, and died August 10, 1895. She was the daughter of Eli Harrison, a cousin of President Benjamin Harrison and who fought in the War of 1812.

J. W. Tiberghien was a boy of seventeen years when the family settled in Sac county, and he has thus lived to witness the wonderful transformation that has taken place in western Iowa. He came here in a primitive day, when the red-skinned Indians roamed the country and when the opening up of a new country required the utmost bravery and persistence. Reared on the farm, he vividly recalls the great sport of hunting in that early day. He remained at home until he was twenty-eight years old, helping clear the land and developing a farm from the wilderness.

On March 9, 1862, Mr. Tiberghien enlisted in Company H, Tenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and served three years and twenty-five days. He was in the battle of Farmington, Mississippi, when his regiment and four companies of another regiment under Colonel Purcell were ordered out to move the Union picket line. The first time he was under fire was at Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was in the hospital at the time, but begged his captain to allow him to fight one day. He was afterward sent to Jefferson Barracks and then transferred to the invalid corps, forming the reserve in Company D, and served to this corps until mustered out in Chicago, April 5, 1865.

Mr. Tiberghien returned to Sac county, Iowa, after the war, and on January 10, 1867, he was married to Louisa Travis, who was born in LaPorte county, Indiana, October 15, 1839, a daughter of Curtis and Mary Ann (Miller) Travis. She came to Sac county in 1861, on a visit to her sister, and here met Mr. Tiberghien. Louise Travis Tiberghien was one of the first school teachers in Sac county and is the oldest living pioneer teacher at the present time residing in Sac county. Settling on his own farm of two hundred acres in Douglas township, Mr. and Mrs. Tiberghien lived there for

some time, but finally rented their farm and removed to town in order to better educate his children. He spent three years ranching in Kansas. In 1899 he sold the farm and in 1900 removed to his present place in Jackson township.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tiberghien, only three of whom are living. Willie J. died August 12, 1889, at the age of twenty-one years, five months and fifteen days. Lee Velda and Emmett R. were twins. Lee Velda was born July 15, 1868, and died April 9, 1912. Emmett R. died in infancy. Dr. Eugene Tiberghien, who was a soldier in the Spanish-American War, is an osteopath at Julesburg, Colorado, and is the father of three children, Ruth, Helen and Ione. Mrs. Pearl Ellis resides at Bakersfield, California, and is the mother of five children, Ruby, Mary, Opal, James IV and Ernest. James Earl, who was a twin brother of Pearl, is deceased. Garland Travis lives at Bakersfield, California.

Mr. Tiberghien is a Republican in political faith, and had the honor of casting a vote for Abraham Lincoln. He has served as township clerk, justice of the peace and school director. He has been a Master Mason since 1850, being the only charter member living of the Sac City Masonic lodge. He is also a member of Gen. W. T. Sherman Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and the Christian church.

A product of the pioneer epoch, and he himself a pioneer, Mr. Tiberghien is one of those estimable citizens whose labors and self-sacrifice have made possible the advanced state of civilization and enlightenment for which the great state of Iowa has long been noted. His life forcibly illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when actions are governed by right principles and high ideals. He is one of the kind that can be relied on in the world's affairs, a splendid specimen of the many that do the real work of the world in places of passing importance, and do it well. His is a life that does not attract attention for any picturesque or erratic qualities, but the kind out of which the warp and woof of the substance that goes to make up the continuous achievement of humanity is made. Plain, unassuming, straightforward, his life has been consistent in motive and action, and he has earned and holds the high regard of a large acquaintance.

His favorite recreation, even at his advanced age, is fishing—the pursuit of Presidents and men of all walks of life. On bright, sunshiny days this fine old gentleman can be found along the shaded banks of the beautiful Raccoon river plying his reel and net.

A worthy avocation to which he has dedicated the active part of his declining years, is the care of Cory's Grove cemetery, the last resting place

of the earliest pioneers of Sac county. Reverently, and with loving, tender hands, he looks after this beautiful plot of burial ground which lies within a stone's throw of his cottage home, and which contains the remains of those who were dear and near to him in his boyhood days. The Eternal Being blesses such noble characters as James W. Tiberghien.

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### FRANCIS S. NEEDHAM.

Banking is a business and profession which calls for talent of a high order. To succeed in this oldest of commercial pursuits requires a high degree of intelligence, a great measure of personal integrity, a modicum of absolute honesty, and a broad sense of citizenship which enables one to capably judge human nature, and at the same time retain the confidence and respect of those with whom he is daily thrown in contact in the course of the conduct of his business. Francis S. Needham is a true type of the broad-minded banker who has achieved a standing and eminence in the banking world through his own efforts, beginning in a small way. From a reasonably small beginning in the banking business he has risen to the control of several of the leading banking concerns of Sac county, and enjoys a prestige among his fellow citizens rarely exceeded.

Mr. Needham occupies the important position of president of the Farmers Savings Bank, of Sac City, the State Bank of Early, the Schaller Savings Bank and the Lake View State Bank.

The Farmers Savings Bank was organized in 1906 with a capital of ten thousand dollars. The capital stock was increased to fifty thousand dollars in 1910, to accommodate the rapid and substantial growth of the institution, which numbers among its stockholders many of the most prosperous and well-to-do farmers and citizens of the county. The business is housed in a handsome brick structure owned and erected by the banking company. The interior is fitted with modern fixtures. The deposits of the bank now exceed the total of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars, and it enjoys a measure of confidence among its patrons exceeded by no similar institution in the county. The present officers of the bank are: F. S. Needham, president; L. E. Irwin, vice-president; C. E. Harding, cashier; J. T. Dollison, W. F. Block, S. M. Elwood, J. H. Grohe, directors.

Francis S. Needham was born November 2, 1864, in Staceyville, Mitchell county, Iowa, the son of Gerrit S. and Mary L. (Smith) Needham, who



were natives of New York and Massachusetts, respectively. The parents were very early settlers in Mitchell county, locating there in 1852. The marriage of Mr. Needham's parents occurred in 1860. Gerrit S. was the son of Dwight Needham, who is chronicled among the early and prominent pioneer settlers of Mitchell county. Gerrit moved to Dickinson county in 1869, and after a few years' residence there removed to the state of California. He resided on the coast from 1874 to 1876, and then returned to take up a residence at Grinnell, Iowa, where he engaged in the grocery business. In 1881 he removed to Chicago for the purpose of engaging in the red clover business. He returned west in 1903 and made his final residence in Early, Iowa, where he died November 6, 1912. His wife died in 1908. They reared a family of three children, namely: Mrs. Mary Stowe, deceased; Mrs. Mabel A. Grim, of Union Post Office, Montana, and Francis S.

The elder Needham's purpose in settling in Grinnell for a time was undoubtedly to give his children the opportunity of securing an education such as was afforded by the excellent institution of higher learning in existence in the city. Francis entered Grinnell College and graduated therefrom in the scientific course in 1887. During the summer of 1887 he was employed as a member of a surveying corps by the Santa Fe Railroad Company. He taught school during the fall and winter, and after this he assisted his father in conducting his business for one year. He came to Lake View, Iowa, in 1889, and opened the Lake View State Bank, which was soon afterward incorporated as a state bank. He resided in the town of Lake View until 1907, and then removed to Sac City. Since 1900 he has been connected with the State Bank of Early. In 1902 he purchased a bank at Sioux Rapids, Iowa, which he later sold. He bought the controlling interest in the Cushing Savings Bank in 1903 and successfully conducted this institution for a term of years, eventually disposing of his holdings. He became the owner of the Schaller Savings Bank in 1904, and still holds a large interest in that prosperous concern. In March, 1913, he obtained a large interest in the Farmers Savings Bank, and is now the official head of this influential banking concern. Mr. Needham's career in the banking world has met with success which is well merited. Individually, he is possessed of a strong versatility and the power of concentration which enables him to carry out his operations in a masterly way. He has had the forethought to surround himself with gifted and able young men who have confidence in him and esteem his excellent judgment and advice.

Mr. Needham is descended from a long line of religious workers, from whom he naturally inherited a deep, religious conviction and a desire to



affiliate prominently with his favorite church organization and to assist in every possible manner in the furtherance of a religious sentiment in the community. His moral uprightness on all occasions speaks for itself and is evidence of his desire to live a blameless and irreproachable life. His father was originally one of the pioneers in the organization of the Congregational church and its subsequent spread throughout the length and breadth of Iowa, but later became a Presbyterian. Francis was one of the principal organizers and a liberal supporter of the Congregational church in the town of Lake View, and is now prominently identified as a leading lay member of the Sac City Presbyterian church. He is politically allied with the Republican party and has served as treasurer of the school board of Lake View.

Mr. Needham was wedded in 1888 to Eugenie E. Schaller, daughter of Phil Schaller, one of the prominent figures in the upbuilding and development of Sac county, and of whom extended and favorable mention is made elsewhere in these pages. Five children have been born to them, namely: Emeline, aged twenty-two years; Leonard, who died at the age of eleven years; Frances, aged seventeen years; Philip, aged thirteen years; Elizabeth, aged two years and the infant of this interesting family.

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#### GEORGE A. TAYLOR.

Conspicuous among the representative men and public-spirited citizens of Sac county is George A. Taylor, a man who has made his influence felt for good in his community and whose life has been closely interwoven with the history of the community in which he resides and whose efforts have always been for the material advancement of the same, as well as for the social and moral welfare of his fellowmen.

George A. Taylor, enterprising real estate dealer of Sac City, Iowa, is a native of LaPorte county, Indiana, born in the year 1849, the son of William and Mary Taylor, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Pennsylvania. William Taylor was a pioneer merchant of LaPorte county, Indiana. He was in business there in the thirties, and had a log store building about ten miles west of LaPorte. He was an extensive shipper of hogs and cattle. He came to Indianola, Warren county, Iowa, in 1863, and had a store and a nicely improved farm there. In his earlier years he had been a traveling salesman, and in his later years he felt the lure of the road and again traveled for some years, having headquarters in New York City. He died in 1873.

George A. Taylor was fourteen years old when he came to Iowa. He was reared on the farm, but took up railroading when a young man, which he followed for some time. He first came to Sac county in 1871 on a visit, but remained awhile. In 1882 he located permanently in the county, settling on a farm of forty acres four and one-half miles southeast of Sac City. He later disposed of this land and removed to Sac City in October, 1901. In 1900 he had been elected auditor of Sac county, and he served two terms of two years each in this responsible position, his administration of the office being such as to reflect credit upon himself and his constituents.

Mr. Taylor is now actively engaged in the real estate business in Sac City, in which he has been uniformly successful, handling many important properties. He makes a specialty of Iowa and Minnesota lands, and at present is dealing extensively in southern Minnesota land. His transfers amount to several hundred acres annually. He also deals in local real estate, including town realty. He has well-equipped offices in the Platte building. Mr. Taylor owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota.

In 1880 occurred the marriage of Mr. Taylor and Nannie Rothwell, daughter of James Rothwell, formerly of Indianola, Iowa. They are the parents of three children, as follows: Flora E. is a deaconess in the Methodist mission at Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. Lena M. Marple, of Buena Vista county, Iowa, and Thomas M., who is at home.

Mr. Taylor is a man of high moral character, unimpeachable integrity and excellent business judgment, and throughout the locality where he is known he occupies an enviable position among his fellowmen, among whom he is universally esteemed.

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#### CHARLES HATFIELD.

The biographies of successful men, especially of good men, are incentives and guides for the instruction of others. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life, yet have succeeded in overcoming apparently unsurmountable obstacles which in many instances have awakened their latent powers and have served as stimulus which has carried them onward to success while yet in the prime of life. Self reliance, when given half a chance, will win out in the end. Sturdy colonial ancestry has frequently inbred in descendants the power to do and build where others fail. For a man to have struggled onward to attain a

comfortable competence which enabled him and his beloved wife to sit in comfort and enjoy the setting of life's journey by their own fireside in peace and contentment with the world at large, is the greatest of successes, to the mind of the historian. Such an example is the aged gentleman of whom it is a pleasure to record the ensuing facts.

Charles Hatfield, of Sac City, Iowa, was born February 14, 1839, in the old state of Massachusetts, the offspring of Horace Hatfield, of Massachusetts, and Almire (Kellogg) Hatfield. He was left fatherless when twenty-two years of age, and, having previously married, he assumed the care of his mother during the remainder of her life. Charles, having been reared in the vicinity of the great paper mills of his native state, learned the trade of paper maker in the mills and was employed at his trade for a period of eight years. He was married in 1858, taking to wife Lovenia Warren, who was born in Massachusetts on March 5, 1839. Mrs. Hatfield is a descendant of an old New England family. She is the daughter of Pliny and Mary (Tanner) Warren, whose immediate ancestors crossed the Atlantic in the "Mayflower." One of her direct ancestors was Dr. William Warren, who fell at the battle of Bunker Hill.

The mother, son and wife set out for the West in 1864 and located in Wisconsin, where they resided for two years on a farm. In 1866 they came to Iowa, locating in Butler county. They were very poor, and it was necessary for Charles to work out at farm labor for two years in order to obtain a livelihood. This enabled him to obtain some tools and live stock and he rented a farm in Butler county for twelve years. The family were thrifty and saving—qualities which enabled him to come to Sac county in 1879 and purchase eighty acres of good land in Jackson township for six dollars and sixty cents an acre. He at once began breaking his land and sowed it to crops and erected a small house which served as their habitation. Some years later he purchased an additional forty acres at a cost of thirty-two dollars an acre. In 1891 he sold his entire holdings in Jackson township at sixty-five dollars an acre and invested in one hundred and seventy-one acres in Douglas township at a purchase price of forty-four dollars an acre. He rented this farm for a little over twenty-one years and in 1891 removed to a cottage in Sac City where he and his estimable wife are enjoying a comfortable and peaceful old age. In the year 1912 Mr. Hatfield disposed of his farm holdings for the considerable sum of one hundred and fifteen dollars per acre. This well respected couple have reared two daughters to beneficent womanhood, namely: Mrs. Cora Reynolds, who resides in northwestern Nebraska and is the mother of three children, Charles Reynolds, of Omaha,

and father of two children, Milton and Robert; Mrs. Cora Daly, of Nebraska, who is the mother of one child, Helen; Leroy Reynolds, unmarried. The second daughter is Mrs. Nellie Corderman, of Cedar township, who is the mother of seven children, namely: Alvin Corderman, who is married and lives in Cedar township, Sac county; Louis; Ellis, who is married and has one child, Beryl; Walter; Warren; Elsie, and David. Mr. Hatfield has always been allied with the Republican party and has served as trustee of Jackson township. He and his wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are affiliated with the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Hatfield is a Free Mason, being a member of the chapter and commandery, and is a member of the Yeomen.

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### LARKIN P. LOWRY.

Among those men of fine character who have impressed their personality upon the community of their residence and have borne their full share in the upbuilding and development of Sac county, mention is deservedly due Larkin P. Lowry, one of the enterprising merchants of Sac City.

Larkin P. Lowry, of the firm of Ahrens & Lowry, hardware merchants of Sac City, Iowa, was born December 6, 1845, in Madison county, Illinois, the son of John and Elizabeth (Sharp) Lowry, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Kentucky. John Lowry removed to Macoupin county, Illinois, in 1856, and there he enlisted in the Union army when the Civil War came on. He was a member of Company I of the Thirty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the great battle of Shiloh, after which he became seriously ill and died on his way home at Carlinville, Illinois. The mother reared the family and spent her later days with her children, of whom there were four, as follows: A. J. Lowry, of Corning, California; W. W. Lowry, of Auburn, Sangamon county, Illinois; Mrs. Josephine McMillen, deceased, and Larkin P. Lowry, the immediate subject of this sketch.

Larkin P. Lowry was born and reared on the farm and has spent much of his life as an active farmer. He removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1878, and in 1882 came to Sac county, Iowa. He resided on a farm north-east of Sac City, which he owned until 1899. He had rented land until 1888, when he bought three hundred and twenty acres in Douglas township, which he still owns. In the spring of 1899 he removed to Sac City to reside. He

engaged in the hardware business in 1903, and is now a member of the firm of Ahrens & Lowry, one of the leading hardware stores of the county, who carry a full and complete line of hardware and enjoy a large and growing patronage.

Mr. Lowry was married in 1885 to Anna M. Hughes, who was born and reared in Illinois. They are the parents of two children, E. P. Lowry, a bank cashier at Marathon, Iowa, and Mrs. Myrtle Montgomery, who resides at home with her parents.

Politically, Mr. Lowry is an independent Republican. He is a member of the First-Day Adventist church, and holds membership with the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, a fraternal order.

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#### GUY SWEARINGEN, M. D.

One who has won honorable distinction in the ranks of the medical fraternity of Sac county is Dr. Guy Swearingen, of Sac City. That his ability and skill as a successful practitioner have been duly recognized is well attested by the liberal share of public patronage which he enjoys and the conspicuous place he occupies among the most advanced professional men of the city and county where he lives.

Doctor Swearingen is a native of Homer, Illinois, born July 3, 1881, and he is a son of William and Flora (Wrisk) Swearingen, both natives of the state of Illinois, and now residing at Homer, that state. William Swearingen was a successful farmer for many years. He and his wife reared a family of two children, Mrs. Daisy Eikman, of New Palestine, Indiana, and he of whom this sketch is narrated.

Doctor Swearingen received his primary education in the common schools of his community. He later entered the University of Indiana Medical College and pursued his studies at this institution during the years 1903 and 1904. He then entered Drake University, at Des Moines, Iowa, from which well-known college he was graduated in 1911, after a student term of two years. Following his graduation he spent one year as interne at Mercy Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, and in the fall of 1912 located at Sac City for the practice of his profession. Here he has built up a substantial and representative practice, and the same has ample basis on his unquestioned ability in both the theoretical and practical phases of his profession.

Doctor Swearingen was married in 1903 to Flora Robbins, of the state

of Minnesota, and their home has been blessed by one son, Ralph, aged seven years.

The Doctor is a member of the Masonic order. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality and a loyal and high-minded citizen, whose support is willingly given to every cause having for its object the moral and material betterment of the community.

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### DONALD McGEACHY.

The sons of Scotland who have come to America and made homes in this country have been among the most prosperous citizens wherever they settled. Some of these have come to Iowa, and Sac county is proud to number a few of these thrifty people among her number. The McGeachys who have come to this country from Scotland have been reckoned among the most prosperous and substantial people of the county and have shown those characteristics which have made their native land famous in history.

Donald McGeachy, the son of Malcolm and Jean McGeachy, was born November 12, 1850, at Glenbar, Argyleshire, Scotland. He received a good common school education in his native country, and at the age of twenty-three decided to come to America and seek his fortune. Upon reaching this country he immediately went to Iowa and settled in Clinton, Clinton county, where he worked in a saw mill for six years. He wanted to invest in land, and with this in view he saved his money in order to make a cash payment on his first purchase. In 1879 he came to Sac county and lived on a farm in the western part of Clinton township for eleven years. In 1890 he came to his present farm of two hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, where he was farming at the time of his death, on January 10, 1907. He was a thrifty farmer and used good judgment in all his agricultural ventures. In addition to raising all the crops of this locality, he raised considerable live stock each year.

In 1891 Mr. McGeachy returned to Scotland and married Jeannette Huie, who was born February 21, 1862, in Argyleshire, Scotland. To this marriage have been born seven children: Maria Stuart; Jane L., a graduate from the Odebolt high school and is now a teacher; Malcolm, who works on the home farm; Jeannette, a graduate of the Odebolt high school; Margaret and Mary, who are now in the Odebolt high school, and John, who is still in the common school. All of the children are still at home with their mother.



MR. AND MRS. DONALD McGEACHY





Mr. and Mrs. McGeachy gave to all of their children a good education, feeling that there was nothing which would fit them better for the coming years of life than a good education.

Mr. McGeachy was a member of the Presbyterian church, and rendered it his earnest support at all times. He was a warm-hearted, generous friend and modest and unassuming in all his relations with his fellow men. He was a man of sound conviction, and no one ever had any doubt as to where he stood upon any question. The memory of such a man will be cherished by his friends and honored by his children. Mr. McGeachy was a man of sterling worth. Thoroughly honest, his word was as good as his bond. Quiet and unassuming, his good impulses were always uppermost and his friendship was valued by those who knew him well. He was devoted to his wife and children, and they to him.

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### JOHN WALTER CRISS.

Citizens are called to perform various duties which lie within their capabilities. Usually, the individual himself selects that line of duty for which he possesses a natural aptitude and in which calling he is more certain of success. He who is called to fulfill the exactions and demands of public office has a two-fold mission in life; he must conduct himself in an exemplary manner as a member of the citizen body and so perform his official duties as to merit the approval and esteem of his fellow men to whom he is responsible. A fitting representative of the official body in Sac county is he to whom this brief review is devoted. Sheriff J. Walter Criss is a faithful county official who has ably applied his abilities to the proper conduct of the duties of his high office.

Mr. Criss was born March 17, 1878, in the state of West Virginia. He is the grandson of Isaac Criss, who was born in 1827, and died in October, 1902, in Sac City. He was joined in wedlock in West Virginia with Sarah Jane Means (Marquess). He served as a soldier in the Union army, enlisting in the spring of 1862 in Company H, Fourteenth West Virginia Regiment of Volunteers. He served until the close of the Rebellion and was engaged in many hard-fought battles and skirmishes. In 1883 he removed his family to Sac county and settled on a farm in Jackson township, about two and one-half miles west of Sac City. In June, 1883, he moved on a farm owned by his cousin, Judge Eugene Criss, but not long afterward he pur-

chased a farm of his own in Jackson township on which he resided until 1899, when he retired to a residence in Sac City. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Isaac Criss was the father of nine children, namely: Rebecca, Sarah, William, John, Elmer, James, Luther, Bertha and J. W. Luther came to Sac county with his parents and is now a farmer near Nemaha. Bertha is the wife of R. E. Williams, of Staples, Minnesota, and with whom the mother makes her residence. The father of Sheriff Criss was William H. Criss, still a resident of West Virginia. His mother died when he was an infant and his grandparents reared him.

J. W. Criss was educated in the district schools and did farm work on his grandfather's farm during his boyhood days. When still a youth, he learned the trade of granite and marble cutter and was employed in the shops for a period of ten years. He was appointed to fill the vacancy in the sheriff's office in Sac county, June 5, 1911. He was elected to the office on the Republican ticket in the fall election of the year 1912. He and his family are attendants of the Methodist church, and he is fraternally connected with the Modern Woodmen, Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He values highly a membership in the Sac City commandery of Knights Templar, and the Abu Bekr Shrine of Sioux City.

Mr. Criss was married in 1904 to Susan J. Young, of Buena Vista county, who has borne him one child, Fern Irene, aged seven years. We know of no young citizen of Sac county who is more deserving of this review as a true representative man of the county than Mr. Criss. He has many friends and well wishers who take a just pride in the able manner in which he has conducted the duties of his high office.

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#### REUBEN LEWIS.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Sac county within the pages of this volume, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is Reuben Lewis, one of the leading stock raisers and large land owners of Sac county. By years of labor and honest effort he has not only acquired a well-merited material prosperity, but earned the high regard of all with whom he has associated.

Reuben Lewis, live stock buyer and shipper, was born August 14, 1854, in the state of New York, son of John H. and Catharine (Collitan) Lewis, both also natives of the Empire state. John H. Lewis left the state of New York in 1866 and settled in DeKalb county, Illinois. In the spring of 1883 he came to Sac county, Iowa, and settled in Jackson township, where he died in 1891. Five children were born to John H. and Catharine (Collitan) Lewis, named as follows: Mrs. Emma M. Olmsted, of Genoa, Illinois; Mrs. Anna Wager, of Jackson township, Sac county, Iowa; Reuben, the immediate subject of this sketch; D. C., who died in Sac City in 1907, and George B., of Sioux City, Iowa.

Reuben Lewis received a public school education in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he followed the active life of a farmer. In the fall of 1881 he came to Sac county, Iowa, preceding his father by two years. He located on section 8 in Jackson township, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land, paying five dollars per acre for eighty acres and six dollars for the forty acres. This was what was known as railroad land, and was purchased at the time of a great influx of settlers in western Iowa who were seeking this desirable land. Mr. Lewis improved this land, erected buildings thereon and cultivated a portion of it, and here he resided for twenty-one years, except for a short time when he lived on one hundred and sixty acres in section 9 of Jackson township, which he purchased in 1891 at twenty dollars per acre. Previous to this, however, in 1882, he bought forty acres at seventeen dollars per acre. In 1900 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 21, at forty-five dollars per acre; in 1903 he secured eighty acres in section 21 at fifty dollars per acre; in 1909 he purchased forty acres in section 20 at one hundred twelve dollars and fifty cents per acre, and in 1912 he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 16 at a cost of one hundred fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents per acre. His landed estate thus consists of seven hundred and sixty acres valued at one hundred and seventy-five dollars per acre.

In 1902 Mr. Lewis removed to Sac City, where he built one of the finest modern homes in the city, being located near the college.

Mr. Lewis was married in the state of Illinois in 1877 to Mary Mulcahey, a native of that state. To this marriage have been born three children, only one of whom is living, Mrs. Grace Griffith, of Sac City, formerly of Denver, Colorado. She is the mother of two children, Grace Esther and Reuben. Charles R. Lewis died at the age of thirty-one years, and Catharine Lewis died at the age of nineteen years.

Politically, Mr. Lewis is a Republican, and he has held various township

offices in Jackson township. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is one of the largest buyers and shippers of stock in western Iowa, shipping one hundred car loads of hogs and cattle annually. In his special line of effort probably no man in this locality has achieved a more pronounced success nor a better record. For over thirty years he has been one of the leading citizens of Sac county, and because of the eminent success he has achieved he has gained a reputation which extends far beyond the borders of his own community. Sound judgment, wise discrimination and good common sense have so entered in his make-up as to enable him to carry on his business along lines that have insured his success. Personally, he is a warm-hearted, genial, kindly man.

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#### CHARLES A. SCHULTE.

A man's reputation is the property of the world, for the laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being either submits to the controlling influence of others or wields an influence which touches, controls, guides or misdirects others. If he be honest and successful in his chosen field of endeavor, investigation will brighten his fame and point the way along which others may follow with like success. The reputation of Charles A. Schulte, one of the leading citizens of Sac county, having been unassailable all along the highways of life, according to those who have known him best, it is believed that a critical study of his career will be of benefit to the reader, for it has been not only one of honor but of usefulness also.

Charles A. Schulte, of the firm of Nutter & Schulte, of Sac City, Iowa, was born in Carroll county, Iowa, on November 16, 1875. He is the son of Arnd and Mae (Telcamp) Schultz, both of whom are natives of Germany. After their marriage in Germany they came to this country in 1865 and settled in Grundy county, this state. Ten years later they settled in Carroll county, where they lived until 1880. They then came to Sac county and bought a farm in Sac township, where they remained until they retired to Lake View to spend their declining years. Arnd Schulte died in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Arnd Schulte were the parents of five children: Abraham, a farmer of Sac county; Mrs. L. G. Newby, of Wall Lake; Mrs. E. P. Hixon, of Peoria, Illinois; Mrs. H. A. Low, of Lake City, Iowa, and Charles A., whose life history is here sketched.

Charles A. Schulte was educated in the district schools of Sac county

and later attended a business college at Des Moines and the Dixon Normal School. At the age of twenty-one, he went to Sioux Falls and was employed in a clothing store for three years. Then he came back to Lake View, where his parents had moved, and worked in a clothing store for two years. In 1900 he came to Sac City and was employed in the store of the Alschuler Clothing Company for three years. In 1903 he formed a partnership with Mr. Nutter in the clothing business and men's furnishing of all kinds. They have a well equipped store and carry a full line of goods which are handled by merchants dealing in this line of business. They have a large, lucrative trade and a full share of the patronage of Sac City and vicinity.

Mr. Schulte is a Republican in politics and has served on the city council of Sac City. He and his wife are regular attendants of the Presbyterian church and give liberally to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, belongs to the commandery at Sac City and the Mystic Shrine at Sioux City.

Mr. Schulte was married in July, 1907, to Mabel Wilson, of Sac City, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson. To this union have been born two children, Janice and John. Mr. Schulte is a wide-awake business man and has belief in honesty in all of his dealings. Because of his courtesy and winning personality he has been very successful since becoming a member of the present firm. He has a host of friends throughout this county who admire him for his many good qualities.

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#### CHARLES O. BERG.

In every community there are individuals who by reason of pronounced ability and force of character rise above many others of even greater opportunities and command the unbounded respect and esteem of their fellow men. To the man who is both energetic and enterprising and possessed of honorable impulses, success is bound to come. To this desirable class of citizens very properly belongs the subject of this sketch.

Charles O. Berg was born in Boone county, Iowa, on January 18, 1871, the son of Charles F. Berg, a sketch of whose career will be found elsewhere in this volume. Charles F. Berg and Katerina, his wife, had been in the country not much over a year when the subject of this sketch first saw the light of day. Both were natives of Sweden and the subject therefore belongs to that class of citizens of Sac county who trace their origin back to the

land of the midnight sun. The subject has his home on a farm of something over eighty acres in section 27 of Wheeler township. The farm residence is beautifully situated on a hill and is reached by a long lane leading from the main highway. A large portion of the land is given over to the cultivation of fruits, there being large orchards and an excellent vineyard. The average production of this vineyard is something like seven thousand pounds of grapes, representing in amount approximately two hundred dollars. The orchards also are quite productive and in this line of horticulture Mr. Berg is highly successful. He also gives attention to the raising of grains and live stock and markets about forty-five or fifty hogs annually. The season of 1913 he had in forty acres of corn which averaged better than fifty bushels to the acre. Mr. Berg is a most careful and painstaking agriculturist and endeavors to keep pace with the times in his chosen vocation.

The subject was seven years of age when his parents came to Sac county and therefore his education was received in the district schools of this county, supplemented by more advanced studies at the Sac City Institute. Since 1898 he has been engaged in farming for himself, for the first three years managing the Berg homestead in Wheeler township, which is now in charge of his brother Martin, the father having practically retired from active labor. In 1909 Charles O. Berg purchased his present farm, paying one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, but he did not bring his family to the farm until in 1911.

Politically, Mr. Berg is a Democrat and is proud of the fact that he voted for President Wilson. His religious affiliation is with the Swedish Lutheran church, in which faith he was reared and in which he is in turn rearing his family.

On February 24, 1899, Mr. Berg was united in marriage with Jennie Peterson, daughter of Peter Peterson, of Odebolt. She was born in Canada, the child of Swedish parents. To their union have been born five children, namely: Jennings, born March 8, 1900; Eveline, deceased; Helen, born November 1, 1905; Frank, born March 6, 1908, and Edna, born April 30, 1911. These children are all to receive good educations and will be carefully trained in all that constitutes perfect manhood and womanhood. Mr. Berg is a man who takes an interest in all the leading questions of the day and gives earnest support to all movements for the upbuilding of the community socially, morally, materially and educationally. The result is that in a large measure he enjoys the sincere regard, confidence and good will of all who know him.



## WALTER A. NUTTER.

Walter A. Nutter, of the firm of Nutter & Schulte, dealers in men's clothes and furnishings, was born in Sac City, Iowa, in 1869. He is the son of John William and Addie (Armstrong) Nutter, natives of New Hampshire and Wisconsin respectively. James W. Nutter went to Wisconsin when a young man and was employed as a lumber man for some years. He helped to load lumber rafts, which were floated down the Wisconsin river to the Mississippi. Later he came to Sac county, locating in Sac City and engaged in business here in the sixties. He was married on October 24, 1869, to Addie Armstrong, a native of Wisconsin and the daughter of J. E. and Dollie A. Armstrong, who were natives of New York. Mrs. J. W. Nutter's parents came from New York to Wisconsin and later came to Sac City, Iowa, in 1868. J. E. Armstrong was born December 11, 1830, in Lisbon, New York, and when a young man worked on the Erie canal. When less than twenty years of age he went to Wisconsin with a brother and engaged in the lumber and timbering business. They owned the Grundy mill at Princeton, Wisconsin. In 1861 J. E. Armstrong enlisted in the Eighth Wisconsin Battery and was made first lieutenant. He was later promoted to the rank of captain, but became ill and resigned from his command on July 2, 1862. The wife of J. E. Armstrong was Dollie DeMott, who was born at Morristown, New York, October 5, 1833, and died July 29, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Armstrong were the parents of two children, Mrs. J. W. Nutter and Mrs. D. M. Lamoreux, of Sac City. J. W. Nutter, father of Walter Nutter, was a Mason, and had taken all the work up to and including the Royal Arch degree, and was also a member of the Eastern Star. He served as county recorder of Sac county for ten years. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nutter were the parents of two children, Walter A., of whom this chronicle speaks, and J. Edward, a banker of Jolley, Iowa.

Walter A. Nutter was educated in the schools of Sac City and has been in the business either as a clerk or on his own account since early manhood. The firm of Nutter & Schulte was organized in February, 1902, and is now located in a large brick corner store room, thirty-five by seventy-five feet, with basement of the same dimensions. The store is fitted throughout with the latest fixtures, including chifferobes for men's clothing. They carry a large and complete stock of men and boys' clothing and furnishings and cater to a large trade in Sac City and throughout the county.

Mr. Nutter was married on June 5, 1895, to Laverne Drewry, a native

of Plymouth, Wisconsin, and to this marriage has been born one daughter, Lucile, who is now sixteen years of age. Politically, Mr. Nutter is a Progressive, but owing to the nature of his business has never taken an active part in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

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### GEORGE B. GOULD.

This is the era of the installation and use of modern machinery and the prolific use of the automobile in lightening the former heavy task which fell to the lot of the average farmer. No one knows the value of labor saving machinery better than the modern farmer. In every department of his work, from plowing the land to harvesting the crops, inventive genius has sought to save him time, expense and labor, and, at a reduced cost, increase and improve his products and add to the productive value of his land. As a result, the farm of today, when completely equipped, affords its owner an ease and facility of operation that his father before him would never have dreamed was possible. The automobile, too, has done much to add to the ease and profit of farm life and work. Time is money to the farmer as much as to the man in any other walk of life. To "hitch up" and drive to the nearest town takes time; the automobile saves three-fourths of it. It serves, too, in carrying small produce to market and it affords a quicker means of transportation from one part of the farm to another than the horse affords. Apparently the most highly developed industry in Sac county and western Iowa akin to the development of agriculture and indicative of the great prosperity of the region is the automobile business. No town is too small to afford its garage and place of distribution, and some of them boast several finely equipped sales rooms and repair departments. In this connection we find that an agriculturist, George B. Gould, quick to see to what extent this industry would be developed on account of the demands of the times, established the Gould automobile sales rooms and garage in Schaller in 1911. The foresight and business acumen which made him a successful farmer has alike enabled him to make a success of this business venture. In the fall of 1912 he began the erection of a large concrete structure, thirty-five by seventy-five feet in dimension, for a sales room, with a modernly equipped repair shop twenty-five by fifty feet in extent, and completed the building in May, 1913. Three men are employed. This concern sells such well known makes as the

Jeffrey line, which includes the Rambler and the New Jeffrey car, the Moon, the Overland and the Maxwell.

George B. Gould was born June 6, 1855, in Grant county, Wisconsin, the son of Chauncey and Flavia A. (Brusseau) Gould. His father was a native of Vermont and his mother is a native of Canada, of French ancestry. Her father was a Frenchman, who married a lady of English birth. Chauncey Gould left Vermont in about the year 1853, journeyed to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in Grant county. In 1885 he migrated to Sac county so as to be in the proximity of his son George. For some years he resided on a farm near Schaller and then retired to the town. He died in December, 1900. Mrs. Gould resides with her daughter in Correctionville, Iowa, and is over eighty years of age. Two children were born to them, George B., with whom this narrative deals, and Mrs. Emma Borah, who resides on a farm about four miles from Correctionville.

He whose name forms the caption of this review came to Sac county in the month of May, 1876, while not yet of age, and settled on three hundred and twenty acres of land in section 33, Eden township, paying therefor five dollars and forty cents an acre, the year previous to his real settlement in the county. His first dwelling place was a small house sixteen by twenty-four feet in dimension, which he has twice remodeled from the original plan. It is a remarkable fact and a typical illustration of the great rise in land values that the annual rental which Mr. Gould now receives from this farm is more than the original cost, the rental being eight dollars an acre. Later he bought six hundred and forty acres additional at seven dollars and fifty cents an acre, in Minnesota, which has since become very valuable. He resided on his Eden township farm for twenty-five years and in 1903 he removed to Schaller.

Mr. Gould is a Progressive Republican politically. While not a member of any church, he firmly believes in the usefulness of church organizations as having an excellent moral effect in any community and is a liberal giver to the cause of religion. The members of his family are attendants at the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Gould has been twice married. His first wife was Margaret Borah, of Wisconsin, whom he espoused in 1875, and who died in 1891 at the age of thirty-three years, leaving three children: Samuel C., a dentist in Ashton, Illinois; Pearl L., wife of Professor Eells, superintendent of the Rolfe, Iowa, public schools; Margaret, whose birth was the unfortunate time of her mother's death, and who likewise died in 1911 at the age of twenty years. Mr. Gould was again married on December 4, 1895, to Ella Parrott, a lady

of English nativity and who came to America with her parents when thirteen years of age and settled at Dyersville, Iowa, and later came to Schaller. One child has blessed this union, Doris A., who is a student in the Schaller high school. Pronounced attainments and recognized ability in two well defined and important lines, in each of which he has been successful, characterizes the life work of this estimable and worthy gentleman.

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### JAMES A. CRANSTON.

Within the sight of the city of Odebolt, in the county of Sac, stands a beautiful country home which overlooks a broad expanse of well tilled and the most fertile land in all Iowa. This is the residence of a pioneer settler of Richland township, and it has been the abiding place for over thirty-six years of a citizen who has a high and unimpeachable standing in the community. The first home which James A. Cranston built out on the unbroken prairie in 1878 was a small, single-story frame building of three rooms, in dimension sixteen by twenty feet. He has since added to this and remodeled the house until he has a completely modernized residence of ten rooms. Mr. Cranston came to the southwestern part of Sac county when the land was but thinly settled and the prairie stretched unbroken in every direction. His first purchase, in 1873, was of one hundred and sixty acres of land at a cost of five dollars and fifty cents an acre. In 1888 he bought forty acres at a cost of thirty dollars an acre; in 1892 added one hundred and twenty acres costing thirty-eight dollars an acre; the next addition being forty acres at thirty-five dollars an acre. This made a total of three hundred and sixty acres, although his holdings now comprise but two hundred and eighty acres, eighty acres being owned and tilled by his second son.

James A. Cranston was born September 27, 1850, in Guernsey county, Ohio, the son of John B. and Margaret (Campbell) Cranston. John B. Cranston was the son of James Cranston, a native of north Ireland and of Scotch Presbyterian parentage. James was born in 1785 and was married on February 20, 1812, to Elizabeth Ferguson. This was one year after he came to America. He first lived in the Southland and then settled in Ohio, living there many years in Guernsey county, afterwards coming to Benton county, Iowa, where he died. He was the father of six children, the first of whom were twins, John B. and William, born November 20, 1816; then came Foster, Mary A., Jane and James A. John B. Cranston was married



MR. AND MRS. JAMES A. CRANSTON



June 29, 1841, to Elizabeth Johnson, mother of David Johnson Cranston and Eliza Jane Cranston, of Dewitt, Iowa. She died not long after marriage. His second marriage took place April 25, 1848, with Margaret Campbell, who bore him the following children: William Campbell, born April 19, 1849, and died in Oklahoma; James A.; Celissa Ann, born July 17, 1852; John Clark, born April 13, 1854, now a resident of Huron, South Dakota; Robert Alexander, born April 25, 1859, who resides in North Dakota; Foster Addison, born June 13, 1862, resides at Spencer, Iowa.

In 1853 John B. Cranston migrated to Iowa and located in Scott county for a period of two years and then removed to Clinton county in 1855 and resided near Dewitt. In 1868 he removed to a farm in Benton county, where he resided until 1887, at which time he came to Sac county and made his final home with his son, James A., dying on December 28, 1899. Margaret Cranston was born July 28, 1820, and died August 25, 1893. She was the daughter of William and Anne (Lawrence) Campbell, former residents of Guernsey county and likewise descendants from old Scotch Presbyterian families. The Campbells removed from Ohio to Clinton county in 1855 and there lie buried.

James A. Cranston, with whom the biographer is directly concerned, received his education in the common schools of Clinton county and also those of Benton county, where his parents removed in 1868. He was reared on the farm and knew no other vocation than that of farming. Five years after his marriage, in 1878, he came to Sac county, having made his first trip here in 1873 for the purpose of purchasing land. Like many others who came about the same time, he returned home and awaited the advent of the railroad before coming permanently to develop his farm.

Mr. Cranston was married on December 24, 1873, to Sarah Alice McCreight, who was born July 15, 1853, near the city of Aledo, Illinois. She departed this life September 14, 1893. During life she was a good and faithful wife, a Christian woman in every respect, a fond mother, and an excellent helpmeet to her husband. She was the daughter of Ephraim F. and Mary Jane (Voris) McCreight, both natives of the Buckeye state. For five years after marriage James A. and wife resided on a farm in Benton county and then came to Sac county.

The following children were born to this union: Bert Allen, born June 29, 1876, and was married on January 12, 1898, to Birdina Traver, who was born January 6, 1877, and is the mother of the following children: Lee Allen, born December 22, 1898; Warren Everett, born October 22,



1900; James Howard, born May 2, 1904; Harold Eugene, born January 5, 1910. This family resides in Huron, South Dakota.

Archie Preston is the second son, born December 5, 1877, and was married on February 5, 1902, to Grace Traver, who was born October 6, 1882. They have one child, Kenneth Preston, born December 16, 1912. Archie Preston resides in Richland township.

Leroy James, of Huron, South Dakota, third son of James A., was born January 30, 1880, and was married December 2, 1903, to Della Gray, who was born September 20, 1879. They have three children: Alice, born August 13, 1905, died August 15, 1905; Ethel Helen, born August 28, 1906, and died April 14, 1911; James Lewis, born June 17, 1908.

The fourth child of this marriage is Mrs. Ella Florence Frevert, born August 17, 1881, and was married December 27, 1905, to Edward Frevert, who was born April 13, 1882, and is the father of the following children: Raymond Frederick, born March 8, 1907; Alice Catherine, born June 8, 1908; Kathryn Florence, born July 16, 1912.

The fifth child of this marriage is Ethel May, born December 30, 1883, who is now a resident of South Dakota.

Clifford Earl, the sixth in order of birth, was born July 15, 1885, and was married February 8, 1911, to Nina Brown, who was born February 17, 1884. They have one child, Nina Mae, born January 23, 1912.

Charles Lewis, seventh by birth, was born August 11, 1887.

John Ray, the eighth, was born August 1, 1889, and was married December 31, 1912, to Zylpha Peck, and is the father of one child, Robert Kieth, born February 15, 1914.

Leslie Verl is the youngest of the family, born September 11, 1893.

Mr. Cranston's second marriage occurred December 14, 1911, to Carrie E. Cranston, of Miller, South Dakota, who was born December 7, 1873.

He of whom this review is written is a pronounced Progressive in his political affiliations and is a political worker of considerable strength and influence in the county. He has served as township trustee and township clerk. He is a ruling elder of the Odebolt Presbyterian church, is trustee of the Sac County Farmers' Institute, and is a director and stockholder of the First National Bank of Odebolt.

Mr. Cranston is a citizen of wide sympathies and recognized ability, whose circle of friends is large and loyal. He is broad-minded, intelligent and keeps fully abreast of the developments of the times; his activity in civic, agricultural and church affairs betokens him as a leading member of his community and one who invokes an instinctive liking on the part of those

whom he meets. This chronicle and genealogical record is intended as a memoir for his children and grandchildren in perpetuity, and is a distinct recognition of his inherent right as one of the pioneer settlers of the county to have a place in the annals of his county which he has assisted in developing and bringing to the forefront during his long and useful residence here.

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### CHARLES JENSEN.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages and as a usual thing men of honorable and humane impulses, as well as those of energy and thrift, have been patrons of husbandry. The free out-door life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood and no truer blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. It has always been the fruitful soil from which have sprung the moral bone and sinew of the country, and the majority of our nation's great warriors, renowned statesmen and distinguished men of letters were born on the farm and were indebted largely to its early influence for the distinction which they have attained.

Charles Jensen, one of the representative farmers of Boyer Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, was born February 22, 1875, in Clinton county, Iowa. He is the son of O. V. and Caroline Jensen. The ancestral history of the Jensen family is given in the history of Oliver Jensen, which is found elsewhere in this volume.

Charles Jensen was educated in the district schools of Clinton county and Sac county. He was six years of age when his parents moved from Clinton to Sac county and has resided since the spring of 1881 in Boyer Valley township. At the age of twenty-one he moved upon his present farm and has improved it to a great extent, since taking possession. He now has two sets of excellent buildings and has the farm equipped with all of the modern appliances and accessories necessary for the successful farmer. Though he raises all the grains common to this locality, he makes a specialty of the breeding of black Aberdeen Angus cattle. For the past twenty years he has made a specialty of this breed of cattle and has been very successful in his efforts. He now has a herd of twelve cows and produces annually about twelve head for the market. There is no question but what there is a big demand for well-bred stock and Mr. Jensen has felt that it was possible in

more ways than one to keep only good cattle, for this reason he has taken a great deal of pride in keeping his breed up to a good standard.

Mr. Jensen was married March 22, 1901, to Elizabeth Ann Drury, the daughter of J. Reese Drury and wife, of this township. The genealogy of the Drury family and their interesting history is set forth elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of J. R. Drury. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen have one son living, Milton Reese, who was born April 25, 1910; they had one daughter, Eveline Adele, who was born on March 19, 1907, and died in early infancy.

Mr. Jensen cast his first vote for William McKinley in 1896, and has been casting his ballot regularly for the Republican party since that time. He and his wife are attendants of the Presbyterian church and render it such assistance as is within their power. Mr. Jensen takes an active interest in the affairs of his community and is justly regarded as one of the representative men of his township, who are always on the alert to promote the general welfare.

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#### A. B. GULLIFORD.

One of the successful farmers of Cook township, Sac county, Iowa, who has made his impress upon the community in which he has lived for many years is A. B. Gulliford, the proprietor of one hundred and sixty acres of excellent farming land in this township. His career has been marked by hard work and strict attention to business, which has resulted in his attaining to a fair degree of success and the securing of a goodly share of this world's goods.

Mr. Gulliford was born on September 22, 1862, in Grant county, Wisconsin, the son of John and Mary (Francisco) Gulliford. John and Mary (Francisco) Gulliford were both natives of New York and were reared and married in Wisconsin before coming to Iowa. They came to Iowa in 1874, locating three miles south of Odebolt, in Wheeler township, this county, where they entered prairie land. In 1880 they moved to Cook township, this county, where they lived until 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Gulliford were the parents of five children: Mrs. Isaac N. Mead; Mrs. Henry McLaughlin; Mrs. Charles Higgins, deceased; Mrs. Elsie McCline, deceased, and A. B., whose history is here presented. John Gulliford was an invalid for many years on account of injuries received during his service in the Civil War. He was in the Twenty-second Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served for three years. He nearly lost his eyesight while in the service and

suffered from eye trouble during the remainder of his life. He died in Schaller, Iowa, in 1906.

A. B. Gulliford was educated in the district schools of his township, and began farming for himself in 1886 on the home farm. Later he lived for one year in Schaller, Iowa, but returned at the expiration of that time to the farm and has continued to reside there since. In 1903 Mr. Gulliford purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Cook township, and in 1909 he erected a large concrete home, which is modern in every respect, contains twelve rooms and is fitted with all the modern conveniences.

Mr. Gulliford was married in 1886 to Hattie Weaver, and to this union there have been born three children, James, Elda and Mary. Politically, Mr. Gulliford is a stanch Democrat and is heartily in sympathy with the principles set forth by President Wilson. He has won the respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances because of his quiet and unostentatious life since living in this county. He is a citizen who can always be depended upon to be on the right side of such questions as affect the welfare of his community.

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### EDWARD H. HANSON.

History tells us that the Norsemen were the first white men to see America and that Lief, the Lucky, visited the shores of Greenland and Labrador in about the year 1000. From the earliest part of the Christian era, the people of Norway and Sweden have been among the most venturesome of the many different nations of Europe and the energy which characterizes these people has made them one of the most prosperous nations of Europe. A few of the descendants of these old sea kings of Norway and Sweden have settled in Sac county, Iowa, and among these is Edward H. Hanson, a farmer of Richland township.

Edward H. Hanson was born March 31, 1879, at Oyster Bay, New York. He is the son of Nels and Anna (Nelson) Hanson, who were both born in Sweden. Nels Hanson was born in May, 1839, and died in May, 1902, while his wife was born in April, 1847, and died in November, 1913. They were married in the land of their birth and came to America in 1868, and for a period of two years lived in New York, then located in Oyster Bay, where the father, Nels Hanson, was a caretaker for a summer estate. Here the family lived until the spring of 1883, when, wishing to better their condition, they came direct to Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa. After a year's

residence in Odebolt, the family moved to a farm of a brother of Nels, who had previously come to this county. Two years later Mr. Hanson moved to his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Richland township. In 1891 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres. In 1902 he moved to Odebolt, where he died in May of that year. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hanson were the parents of nine children, of whom Edward H. is the fifth.

Edward H. Hanson was educated in the district schools of his home township and has lived the greater part of his life in Sac county. Twenty years of his life have been spent on his present farm near Odebolt. He was married March 3, 1909, to Ella Down, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Down, of Sac county. To this marriage have been born two children, both of whom are deceased.

Politically, Mr. Hanson is affiliated with the Republican party and identifies himself with the Progressive wing of the party. He and his wife are both stanch members of the Methodist Episcopal church and interest themselves in the various works of that denomination. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He has won the respect and esteem of all who know him, because of his friendly manner, his business ability and his upright living.

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### HENRY A. KLUCKHOHN.

Statistics show that among the very finest foreign-born members of our cosmopolitan population are many who are natives of the great German empire. Their influence upon our national life has been marked, disseminating as they have their national virtues of industry, fragality and honesty. These characteristics have been handed down from father to son so that our native-born Americans of German descent possess these same admirable traits, coupled with our world-famous occidental ability and push, and fortunate is the man whose character possesses these marked traits. All this can truthfully be said of the man whose name initiates this paragraph, to a short sketch of whose life the attention of the reader is now directed.

Henry A. Kluckhohn, who has retired from the active duties of life and is now living quietly at his beautiful home in Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, was born on February 10, 1855, in Grant county, Wisconsin, the son of August and Wilhelmina Saak, both of whom were natives of Germany. August, who came to America in 1848, when twenty-one years of age, was born on February 22, 1827, in Lieden-Hausen, Oen-Hausen, Detmold. Upon



MR. AND MRS. HENRY A. KLUCKHOHN





attaining his majority, he decided to seek his fortune in the New World and left his home in Germany on March 19, 1848, arriving in New York on May 8th of the same year. His marriage occurred on July 27, 1853, while living in Chicago, Illinois, and the same year he and his bride settled in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he passed the remainder of his life. He was the father of thirteen children, the oldest of whom was Henry A., the immediate subject of this sketch. The others are: Sophia (Mrs. Miner), who resides in Odebolt; Minnie and Lydia, deceased; Caroline (Mrs. Hoffman), who lives at Eagle Grove, Iowa; August, a farmer of the same place; Henrietta (Mrs. Christ), of Lake City, Iowa; Emma, who lives in Grant county, Wisconsin; Hilda, living in Montana, as is also Arthur; Edward, of Rockford, Iowa; Albert, of Blackfoot, Idaho, and Clarence, of Grant county, Wisconsin.

Henry A. Kluckhohn was reared on the parental homestead in Wisconsin and was there married, on February 25, 1879, to Caroline Christina Boerner, of the same county, born February 26, 1857, in Chicago, daughter of John A. and Matilda Danm Boerner, natives of Germany, who emigrated to America, finally settling in Grant county, Wisconsin. A few years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kluckhohn came westward and located in Ida county, this state, where they lived for thirteen years. Upon coming here, Mr. Kluckhohn purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, and in the thirteen years he resided in Ida county he increased his holdings to four hundred and eighty acres in that county, which he still owns. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Silver Creek township, being located four miles west of Cook Center, but he did his trading at Odebolt. In 1892 he purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Richland township, this county, on which the family resided until February of 1909, when he moved into the home which he had erected in Odebolt. This is one of the most beautiful, spacious and complete homes in the city and is located on Park avenue, one of the show streets of the town. Mr. Kluckhohn has succeeded well in his chosen vocation, and his activities have stamped him as a man of unusual business ability, unswerving honor and integrity.

In politics, Mr. Kluckhohn has for years been a firm adherent of the policies of the Republican party, but lately he has evinced a tendency to be independent in such matters, having an inclination to support the man as an individual rather than the party's representative. He is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his fraternal affiliations are with the ancient order of Freemasonry. Mr. and Mrs. Kluckhohn are the parents of three children, namely: Ellis L., a farmer of Richland township. He has

one son, Edwin, who has been reared by the grandparents, owing to the fact that Ellis L. is a widower. Ottmar is married and lives on the old Ida county homestead. Emil, the youngest son, is located at Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Kluckhohn is a man in every sense worthy of the name, and throughout the years of his residence in this locality his influence has ever been exerted for the best good of the various phases of community life.

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### JAMES A. DRURY.

The student interested in Sac county, Iowa, does not have to carry his investigation far into its annals before learning that James A. Drury has long been an active and leading representative of its agricultural interests and that his labors have proven a potent force in making this a rich farming region. Through several decades the subject has carried on farming, gradually improving his valuable place, and while he has prospered in this, he has also found ample opportunity to assist in the material development of the county, and his co-operation has been of value for the general good.

<sup>28</sup> James A. Drury, of Boyer Valley township, was born July 16, 1874, in Marshall county, Iowa. He was the son of Isaiah and Margaret Jane (Leach) Drury, who were both natives of Indiana. His parents moved to Marshall county, Iowa, from Indiana in 1862 and in 1884 they moved to Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Drury were the parents of nine children: Samuel, of Marshall county, Iowa; Mrs. Mahala Daugherty, of Marshall county; J. Reese, whose history is portrayed elsewhere in this volume; Albert, of Marshall county, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Ellen Cline, of Louisiana; Lafayette, of Oregon; William, of Nebraska; Clara, of Louisiana, and James A., with whom this narrative deals.

James A. Drury received his first education in Marshall county, Iowa, and when eleven years of age accompanied his father to Louisiana, where he attended school until he was seventeen years of age. His mother had died before he went to Louisiana and his father died after he had been in Louisiana six years. When he was seventeen years of age he came to Sac county and lived for a year with his brother, then returned to Louisiana and remained a year, but permanently located in Sac county in 1893. In 1898 he was married and purchased his first farm in Delaware township, this county, but a year later sold it and returned to Boyer Valley township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres for fifty dollars an acre. This land is now

worth two hundred dollars an acre, and his corn in 1913 averaged fifty bushels to the acre. His farm has natural drainage and this makes the soil easier to cultivate, therefore less expensive to manage. The farmers in this county who are compelled to spend thousand of dollars in drainage can appreciate what it means to have a farm which is naturally drained.

Mr. Drury was married on September 21, 1898, to Grace Kelley, the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Kelley, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Cedar county in the late fifties. In 1868 the Kelley family settled in Dallas county, and in 1873 they permanently located in Douglas township, Sac county. Mr. Kelley died in 1909 and his wife in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Drury have one daughter, Gladys May, who was born on May 25, 1905.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Drury has allied himself with the new Progressive party. He keeps well informed on the current issues of the day and can intelligently discuss the political questions of the hour. His family are regular attendants of the Presbyterian church and contribute liberally to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Yeomen and is interested in all the social activities of that fraternal organization. Mr. Drury started out in life with practically nothing, and by his own grit and determination has reached a position where he has a fine farm and a comfortable living. He takes an active part in the affairs of the community and is rightly regarded as a representative man of his locality.

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#### BARNABAS C. STANZEL.

One of the younger farmers of Sac county, who is now operating a farm of his own is Barnabas Stanzel, of Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa. Early in life he decided that he wished to follow the vocation of a farmer, and with this end in view he began to interest himself in all of those details which in the aggregate make up the vocation of the successful farmer. He was born September 27, 1886, on the farm where he is now living and has lived on this place continuously since that time, with the exception of about one year, which he spent in the southern part of Iowa and one year in Lake View. He is a son of William A. and Lavina R. (Clark) Stanzel, who were pioneers of Clinton township.

Barnabas Stanzel was educated in the schools of Clinton township and the high school at Lake View. When not in school during his boyhood days, he was assisting his father on the home farm, and when twenty years of age

began farming for himself on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he received from his father.

Mr. Stanzel was married February 10, 1909, in Ida Grove, Iowa, to Bertha Grace, the daughter of Thomas and Olive Grace, who are now residents of Sac City. To Mr. and Mrs. Stanzel has been born one son, Gerald, on January 11, 1910.

Politically, Mr. Stanzel is a Republican, but has confined his political activities to the casting of his ballot for the candidates of his party. Mr. Stanzel is now in the prime of life and has a long and useful career open before him. The record which he has made so far in his community indicates that in the years to come he will become a man of influence for good in his community. He is always reasonable and just in all of his business transactions and has never violated in the slightest degree the confidence which his fellow citizens have reposed in him.

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#### FRANK CAWIEZEL.

The little republic of Switzerland furnishes very few emigrants to the United States, for the reason, probably, that the people of that country enjoy as democratic a form of government as do the people of this country. Switzerland has the oldest republic in Europe, and for several hundred years they have enjoyed the freest democratic government in the world. In the small mountain state of Switzerland the initiative, referendum and recall were born, which today are being so widely agitated throughout the United States. The people of Switzerland are among the most prosperous of any people in the world, and the few Swiss emigrants who have made their home in the United States have prospered wherever they have settled.

Frank Cawiezel, a prosperous farmer of Sac county, was born April 7, 1847, in Switzerland. His parents, Lucius and Mary Cawiezel, lived all their lives in Switzerland. Frank Cawiezel came from his native country to Iowa in 1868, and followed the trade of a carpenter, which he had learned in his native land, continuing in this business until the time of his marriage, which occurred in 1875. In 1869 he went to Nebraska and took up a homestead there, but shortly afterwards went to St. Louis, and here followed his vocation as a carpenter for three years, at the end of which time he went to Shreveport, Louisiana, and worked for some time at that place, after which he returned to St. Louis. He then married and came to Sac county, Iowa,

in 1875, where he rented a farm for the first two years on the site now occupied by the city of Early, then bought one hundred and sixty acres for fifteen hundred dollars, and he has added to this tract from time to time until he and his wife own together nine hundred and eight acres of fine farming land in this county and Buena Vista county, this state. He has prospered from the beginning of his farming experience, and his whole career in this county testifies of the man who wished to perform his full duty as a citizen of his adopted country. He has a fine modern home of seven rooms, which is situated on the bluff above Boyer river. He raises large crops of all the grains common to this locality and also markets a considerable amount of live stock each year.

Mr. Cawiezel was married in 1875 to Mary Durisch, of Clinton county, Iowa, and to this marriage have been born nine children: Stephen and Lucius, deceased; Mrs. Fannie Yander, of Carroll county, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Toohey, of Buena Vista county, this state; Mrs. Katie McKenna, of Murray county, Minnesota; Frances, Frank, Ida and Elinor, the four youngest children being still with their parents on the farm.

Politically, Mr. Cawiezel is an independent voter, having always believed that the best interests of his community would be best served by voting for the best man. He and his family are all loyal and consistent members of the Catholic church at Schaller, and are interested in the various activities of that denomination. Mr. Cawiezel has a charming home and he and his family entertain their many friends with genuine hospitality.

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#### AUGUST H. W. REUBER.

Among the prosperous business men of Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, who have been prominently identified with the commercial life of the county, there is no one who stands higher in public esteem than August H. W. Reuber, of the firm of Reuber & Bruce, dealers in grains, seeds and popcorn. Mr. Reuber is one of the many representatives of the substantial German element of this county, and brings to bear in his business those sterling qualities which characterize the Germans wherever they are found. Seven years after landing in this country and at the early age of twenty-three years, he engaged in the popcorn business in Odebolt. He saw that this industry had great possibilities and, with keen foresight, has built up a trade which is second to none in this part of the state.

August H. W. Reuber was born March 31, 1866, in Hanover, Germany, the son of August and Fredericka Reuber, and belonged to the High German class. When August Reuber was sixteen years of age his parents came to America and first located in Grant county, Wisconsin, where his father followed the shoemaker's trade. Four years later August H. W. came to Sac county, Iowa, and the family followed three years later, locating on a farm one mile north of Odebolt. Two years later, upon the marriage of August, his parents moved to a small farm of twenty acres in Richland township, and two years later they moved to an eighty-acre farm in Delaware county, Iowa, where the mother died in 1901. The father afterward resided with his son for three years, and in 1904 returned to Germany, where his death occurred. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. August Reuber, Sr.: Mrs. Henry Lutz, of Storm Lake, Iowa; Carl H., of Schaller, Iowa, and August H. W., with whom this narrative deals.

August H. W. Reuber was well educated in his native country, and when a mere youth was apprenticed to a printer, where he learned the trade of typesetting. However, he never followed this profession in this country, but, owing to his poor health, engaged in farm work as soon as his parents landed in this county. In 1888 he rented a farm in Richland township, and here he planted his first crop of popcorn, and, fortunately, his first yield netted him a handsome return on his investment. In 1890 he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Cook township at a cost of thirty-one dollars an acre, and engaged in the raising of popcorn on a larger scale. Two years later he discontinued the raising of popcorn himself on account of unfavorable seasons, and went to feeding cattle. However, he returned to the popcorn culture, and soon afterward began to buy and ship popcorn, and as early as 1898 he had the sobriquet of "Popcorn King." In 1905 his business had grown to such an extent that he felt justified in moving to Odebolt and engaging in the buying and shipping of popcorn. In 1909 he took in J. L. Bruce as a partner and added a regular grain department to his business. In 1910 they erected a large elevator with a capacity of thirty-eight thousand bushels. During the past four years the firm has shipped about seventy-five cars of popcorn annually, and handles a total of other grains amounting to one hundred and twenty-five thousand to one hundred and eighty-five thousand bushels annually. In 1913 the firm had sixty thousand dollars invested in popcorn alone, and about twenty thousand dollars in other grains. The equipment is now worth twenty-three thousand dollars and in 1914 the firm expects to erect a large double crib which will have a capacity of two million pounds of popcorn annually. The plant extends

over twenty-one city lots in Odebolt, and this fact alone gives some idea of the magnitude of the business.

Mr. Reuber was married, February 5, 1891, to Louise Katherine Rabe, of this county, who was born in Germany, coming to America when five years of age with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Reuber are the parents of two children, Edgar H., who is a farmer of Cook township, this county, and Minnie, who is still in school.

Politically, Mr. Reuber is a Progressive and takes an active interest in politics. He has been a member of the school board of Odebolt since 1909. The family are loyal and consistent members of the German Methodist church, and contribute liberally of their substance to its support.

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### J. F. UMBARGER.

Among the farmers of Sac county who have been prominent in the agricultural profession is J. F. Umbarger, who is now living upon a five-hundred-acre farm near Ringsted, in Palo Alto county, this state. He was born May 11, 1872, in Monmouth, Jackson county, Iowa, and is the son of Nathaniel Brown and Mary A. (Brown) Umbarger.

Nathaniel B. Umbarger was born January 4, 1845, in Wythe county, Virginia. He received his early education in a rude log school house, and later attended Wytheville Academy. Nathaniel B. was the son of Stephen and Mary Umbarger. Stephen Umbarger enlisted in the Union army during the Civil War and was captured and made prisoner at Andersonville, dying in Andersonville prison. In 1864 Nathaniel B. was drafted in the Confederate army and assigned to Company B, Thirtieth Regiment of Virginia Regulars. He fought under Gen. Jubal A. Early until his capture at New Market. He was then made a prisoner of war and confined at Elmira, New York, where he remained until the war closed. He then came to Iowa on free government transportation issued to discharged soldiers, where he stayed a few months with an uncle in the eastern part of the state. He then returned to Virginia, where he was married on May 23, 1867, to Mary Agnes Brown, of Wytheville. In March, 1868, he came to Jackson county, Iowa, and settled near Monmouth. In 1873 he moved to Sac county and in 1874 settled on the old homestead farm, where he lived for thirty-two years. Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Brown Umbarger were the parents of a large family of children: Two daughters, who died in infancy; Lemuel Stephen, who died



at the age of thirteen; J. Francis, of Odebolt; Clara L.; William L.; Mrs. Florence L. Norris, of Oelwein, and Arthur G., of Moline, Illinois. In 1906 N. B. Umbarger moved to Odebolt, where he lived until his death, October 26, 1911.

J. F. Umbarger was educated in the Odebolt schools and later spent one year in Miami University and one year in Carthage College, at Carthage, Illinois. He was married in 1896 and since then has been farming for himself. For three years he rented before moving on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Richland township. On March 1, 1913, he moved to Palo Alto county and settled on a five-hundred-acre farm, where he is now living.

Mr. Umbarger was married February 29, 1896, to Winifred D. Ballard, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ballard, of Odebolt. To this union have been born six children, one of whom died in infancy. The remaining five children who are living are Morris, Max, Percy, Margaret and Frank.

Mr. Umbarger has always been interested in politics and was the leader in the Republican party until the organization of the Progressive party in the summer of 1912. He then became a member of the Progressive party and took an active part in its organization in this county. He served one term as township clerk and as school director. Religiously, he and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church and contribute of their substance to its support. Mr. Umbarger has been prominently identified with the life of his community up to the time when he left the county. He enjoyed, to a marked degree, the esteem of his neighbors and friends, because he was a true type of an enterprising citizen who is interested in the welfare of his community. This county lost an excellent citizen when he moved to Palo Alto county.

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#### OLDEN C. ROBINSON.

A prosperous farmer of Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, is Olden C. Robinson, who, although he has been deprived of his hearing from childhood, yet is one of the most prosperous, as well as one of the most highly respected, citizens of his township. He was born November 2, 1881, in Odebolt, Iowa, the son of H. C. and Jeannette Robinson, who were old pioneer settlers of Sac county. The history of Jeannette Robinson gives the family genealogy of the Robinsons and will be found elsewhere in this volume.

When a child Olden C. Robinson met with an accident which deprived

him of his hearing. Consequently, he was educated in the School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he left in 1901. Notwithstanding this handicap, he is happy, contented and a genial man to meet. He began farming operations in 1902, on a rented farm in Clinton township, and in 1910 bought his present farm adjoining the western side of Odebolt, for which he paid one hundred and thirty-one dollars and a quarter for the land, and it is now easily worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. He is a breeder of fine horses, and in 1913 produced fifteen head of horses for the market. In addition he raised twenty-nine head of cattle and about fifty head of hogs.

Mr. Robinson was married February 11, 1904, in Lamoni, Iowa, to Loretta Stedman, the daughter of Eli and Adelia L. Stedman, natives of Ohio and New York, respectively. His wife was also educated in the School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they met. They are a devoted couple and thoroughly enjoy life in all its aspects. Mrs. Robinson supplemented the training received at Council Bluffs by further educational work in Faribault, Minnesota, and she and her husband are great readers and both keep thoroughly informed on the march of civilization as reflected in the best literature of the day. Mrs. Robinson is of a fine family, her father being of English descent with a trace of Indian blood in his veins. Her mother was of Scotch-Irish parentage. Mr. Robinson is a member of the Methodist church and gives to it his earnest support. Mrs. Robinson belongs to the Church of Latter-day Saints. Politically, Mr. Robinson is a Republican, but has never taken an active part in the political arena.

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### JAMES HAMAND.

The present age is essentially utilitarian and the life of every successful man carries a lesson which, told in contemporary narrative, is productive of much good in shaping the destiny of others. There is, therefore, a due measure of satisfaction in presenting, even in brief resume, the life and achievements of such men, and in preparing the following history of the progressive farmer and enterprising citizen whose name appears above, it is with the hope that it may prove not only interesting and instructive, but also serve as an incentive to those who contemplate making agriculture their life work.

James Hamand, one of the largest individual land owners of Sac county, Iowa, was born March 1, 1839, at Zanesville, Muskingum county, Ohio, the

son of James and Eliza Hamand, who were natives of Perry county, that state, and at the time of his birth James Hamand was a merchant in Zanesville, and later was engaged in the mercantile business in Columbus, Ohio, Lexington, Kentucky, and Mount Vernon, Ohio. In 1849 James Hamand went to California, with the "Forty-niners" and died there. Mr. and Mrs. James Hamand, Sr., were the parents of four children: James, Jr., with whom this narrative deals; John; Thomas, and Jane, who now lives with her brother, James.

James Hamand, Jr., was reared in Somerset, Perry county, Ohio, by his paternal grandfather, John Hamand, who was a leading citizen of that county. He attended the common schools, as well as the high school at Somerset, and was given a good educational training. At the age of twenty he took a tour west to the Rocky mountains, and when twenty-one years of age settled in Macon county, Illinois, on a farm. Here he lived and prospered until 1882, when he came to Sac county and purchased six hundred and forty acres of land at six dollars an acre. In 1902 he purchased three hundred and twenty acres across the road from his previous purchase, for which he paid eighty dollars an acre. In 1907 he bought one hundred and twenty-seven acres, paying one hundred and forty dollars an acre, and he is now the owner of ten hundred and eighty-seven acres of fine land, with nine hundred and sixty acres of it in one large farm south of Schaller, this county. He has about twenty sets of buildings on his farms and until a few years ago Mr. Hamand had personal supervision of his extensive farming operations. He now has four tenants on his farms, being compelled by advancing age to relinquish some of his former activities. He has a fine, large home and since coming to this county he has planted large groves of trees and orchards over his land, and so prolific has been the growth that some of the trees in the open measure as much as two feet in diameter. He has raised large herds of cattle and hogs and farmed on an extensive scale with very profitable results.

For many years Mr. Hamand and his sister, Jane, have lived together. She has been his faithful companion and housekeeper and has helped him with her advice and counsel in a way which has been beneficial to him. She is an intelligent and cultured woman who has a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the county.

Politically, Mr. Hamand is an independent Republican and reserves the right of the free-born American citizen to cast his vote as he pleases. In 1896 he voted for Bryan and in 1912 he voted for Wilson. He is well informed upon all current issues of the day and is a man who has an enviable

name for his honesty and upright character. His career has been noteworthy in view of the fact that he has attained such a pronounced success in agricultural lines in this county. He has always been a hard worker and until a few years ago he was always to be found in the fields. He can now look back over a life which has been well spent in every particular and feel that he has lived such a life as will have redounded to his honor and been a benefit to his fellow citizens.

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### AUGUST HAHNE.

Although the character of the immigrants that come to America today seems to be changing, yet there is not a single doubt but that in years past some of the most sturdy, energetic and progressive people living upon our soil were the ones that came to us from foreign lands. They have brought to us not only the spirit of thrift and endurance, but have contributed to the loyal American spirit to a degree which can hardly be overestimated.

August Hahne, a prosperous farmer of Eureka township, in Sac county, Iowa, was born in September, 1850, in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. His parents, Frederick and Sophia (Domeier) Hahne, were both natives of Germany, who came to America in the later thirties and hewed out a home for themselves in the dense forests of Wisconsin. In 1863, when August was only four years of age, they moved to Allamakee county, Iowa, where they stayed for eight years. In 1871 the family moved to Sac county, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hahne have four sons and two daughters living: Henry; Herman, whose history is delineated elsewhere in this volume; William; August; Mina and Sophia.

August Hahne went to school in Allamakee county, Iowa, and Sac county, and from his earliest boyhood helped with the work on the home farm. At the age of twenty-two he started to seek his fortune, and picked up land in Eureka township, in this county, which he now owns. On his farm of two hundred and forty-seven acres he has built a fine home, excellent barn and other outbuildings. He has fenced, drained and improved it in such a way as to increase its productivity as well as add to its value. He has put out groves and orchards and has one of the most attractive places in the township. While he raises all the crops peculiar to this locality, he makes a specialty of stock raising and produces annually for the market twenty head of cattle and one hundred head of hogs. In his forty-two years of farming in this county, he has acquired a reputation as one of the most progressive

and up-to-date farmers of the county, one who is always at the forefront in every laudable enterprise concerning the public welfare.

Mr. Hahne was married December 18, 1888, to Margaret Van Atta, a native of Wisconsin and the daughter of Joseph Van Atta and wife. Mr. and Mrs. Hahne have seven children living, all of whom are at home: Walter, Clarence, George, Henry, Leonard, Bernice and Gladys. The five younger children are still in school and are being given the best educational advantages which the local schools provide.

Politically, Mr. Hahn is a Republican, but, like thousands of other Republicans, in 1912 he changed his ballot for the first time and voted for Woodrow Wilson. The Western states particularly seemed to have had thousands of men who were not blind partisans, but who really voted their convictions and cast their ballot for men and principles which they believed to be for the best interest of the country at large. Mr. Hahne is a man who has won the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens because of the wholesome life he has lived in this township. He and his wife are hospitable people and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the community.

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### HENRY HIX.

One of the few native-born farmers of Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, is Henry Hix, who, by thrift and economy, has attained to a position of influence and prominence in his home township. He is the descendant of German parentage and has inherited those sterling characteristics of the Germanic race which have made them such valuable citizens in this county. While he has been advancing his own material interests, he does not neglect his part in that higher life which makes a man the most valuable member of his community.

Henry Hix, of Richland township, was born May 30, 1876, in Boyer Valley township, this county. His parents, John and Margaret (Reitzel) Hix, were both natives of Germany. John Hix came to America when a young man and settled in Sac county, Iowa, where he married Margaret Reitzel, and shortly after their marriage they moved to Boyer Valley township, where he died in 1880, leaving his widow with seven children: Mrs. Eva Dusenberg, of Garner, Iowa; George, of Storm Lake, this state; Charles, a resident of Sac City; Conrad, of Storm Lake; Henry and Edward, twins, who both live in Richland township, this county, and Caroline, who is living

with her mother in Odebolt. Mrs. Hix and her children moved to Richland township about 1890, where the mother lived until she moved to Odebolt, in the spring of 1908.

Henry Hix has had charge of the home farm since he was grown to maturity, and in addition to farming the eighty acres of the home farm he has purchased eighty acres of his own adjoining the old home place, for which he paid one hundred dollars an acre in 1906, and has had the satisfaction of seeing it greatly advance in value since it has come into his possession. He is a successful farmer by virtue of the fact that he combines his grain and stock raising in such a way as to net him the largest returns.

Mr. Hix was married January 6, 1908, to Anna Buehler, the daughter of Sebastian and Mary Buehler, who were old pioneers of Richland township, and to this marriage have been born a son, Marion, born July 4, 1910, and a daughter, Louise, born March 12, 1913. The history of the Buehler family is found elsewhere in this volume, under the sketch of Sebastian Buehler, deceased.

Mr. Hix has identified himself politically with the Republican party and, although deeply interested in the chief political questions of the day, he has never been an aspirant for office at the hands of his party. He and the members of his family are loyal adherents of the German Methodist Episcopal church, and render to it their earnest and zealous support at all times. Fraternally, he is a member of the Royal Highlanders. Since the world at large judges a community by the character of its citizens, it is but fair to say that Mr. Hix is one of the large representative class of American citizens in his township, who, in the aggregate, have placed their township on a par with any in the county.

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#### ARCHIE P. CRANSTON.

"Like father, like son." The time-tried and never-found-wanting adage, where conditions have been right in the upbringing of children with a high regard for the moral rectitude of living and with an excellent example of the highest sort of citizenship as a guide to the best development of inherited talents, will apply to the Cranston family specifically and generally. Archie P. Cranston, son of James and Fanny (Clapp) Cranston, of whom this work is pleased to give extensive mention, is one of the progressive and rising young farmers of Richland township.

Archie P. Cranston was born December 5, 1877, in Benton county,

Iowa, and came to Sac county with his parents in 1878. He received his education in the nearby district school and the Odebolt high school. He assisted in tilling his father's acreage until 1901, when he moved on the place which he now owns and began farming on his own responsibility. In 1909 he purchased eighty acres comprising his farm from his father, paying therefor the high price of one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. This farm produces in excess of twenty head of Shorthorn cattle yearly and from forty to one hundred head of hogs.

Mr. Cranston is a Progressive in politics and is now serving his second term as clerk of Richland township. He is allied with the Presbyterian faith, which has been the faith of his forefathers for many generations.

Mr. Cranston was married on February 5, 1902, to Grace Estella Traver, who was born in Illinois, the daughter of Luther Traver, a native of New York, whose wife, Fanny Traver, was a native of England. To the Cranstons has been born one son, Kenneth Preston, born December 16, 1912.

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#### HERMAN C. HESS.

Among the successful farmers of Sac county there is a surprisingly large number of citizens of German descent. While many nations have contributed to the population of this county, there is no nation which has furnished more or better citizens than has Germany. Wherever they have settled in this county they have quickly identified themselves with the various interests of their community and have given to their adopted country the same loyal support which they accorded to their native land before coming to this country.

Herman C. Hess, a prosperous farmer of Clinton township, this county, was born August 9, 1858, in Germany, on the isle of Ruegen in the East Baltic sea. He is the son of August and Caroline (Blisath) Hess. August Hess was born October 19, 1819, and died in July, 1904. The wife of August Hess died when Herman C. was less than two years of age, and August Hess later remarried. In 1873 August Hess and his family came to America and settled in Cedar county, Iowa, and three years later permanently located in Clinton township, Sac county.

Herman C. Hess received his elementary education in the schools of Germany, but upon coming to this country assisted his father on the home farm until his marriage, in 1885. He then built a home on his farm in



Clinton township and in 1903 built a new house with all modern improvements. He put out orchards, groves and other trees upon his farm, thereby adding greatly to its value. He raises all of the crops peculiar to this locality and in addition supplements his income by marketing considerable live stock each year.

Mr. Hess was married in 1885 to Minnie Zein, the daughter of Christopher and Mary Zein. The father of Mrs. Hess is dead and her mother is still living at Wall Lake in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Hess are the parents of seven children, William, Mary, Henry, Caroline, Martin, Herman and Wilma. Mary, who is married and lives in Minnesota, has one child, Marvin.

Politically, Mr. Hess is a Republican, but has never felt that he had the time to engage in politics, although he casts an intelligent vote and takes an interest in the public questions which are now confronting the American people. He and his family are earnest members of the German Lutheran church and give liberally to its support. Mr. Hess is a fine example of the many German citizens who have been so influential in making Sac county the prosperous section it is today. He has many friends throughout the township and county who admire him because of his honesty and wholesome life.

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#### WILLIAM HAHNE.

Among the prosperous farmers of Sac county, who are of German descent, is William Hahne, of Eden township, who is now operating a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in this township. He was born November 12, 1867, in Allamakee county, Iowa, and is the son of Frederick and Sophia (Dohmeier) Hahne.

Frederick Hahne and his wife were both born, reared and married in Germany and emigrated to this country in 1848. They first settled in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and in 1863 moved to Allamakee county, Iowa. They purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in that county and lived there for ten years, and in 1873 they sold this tract for sixty dollars an acre and moved to Eden township, Sac county, where they invested in land in section 17. Frederick Hahne died in 1890, and his wife in September, 1882. They were the parents of eleven children: Frederick H., deceased; Simon C., deceased; Mrs. Sophia Schorer, who is a resident of California; Henry J., who lives in Storm Lake, Iowa; Herman; Mrs. Mina Luh-

man, of Schaller, this county; August, a farmer of Eureka township; Mary, deceased; and William, whose history forms the theme of this narrative.

William Hahne was five years of age when his parents moved to Sac county from Allamakee county, Iowa, and has lived on the farm which his parents bought in 1873 until the present time. He attended the district schools near his home, and later graduated from the Business College of Iowa City University in 1888. At the close of his college career he took charge of the home farm and in 1892 engaged in the implement business in Schaller. After conducting this business for nine years he sold out and returned to the farm, where he has since lived.

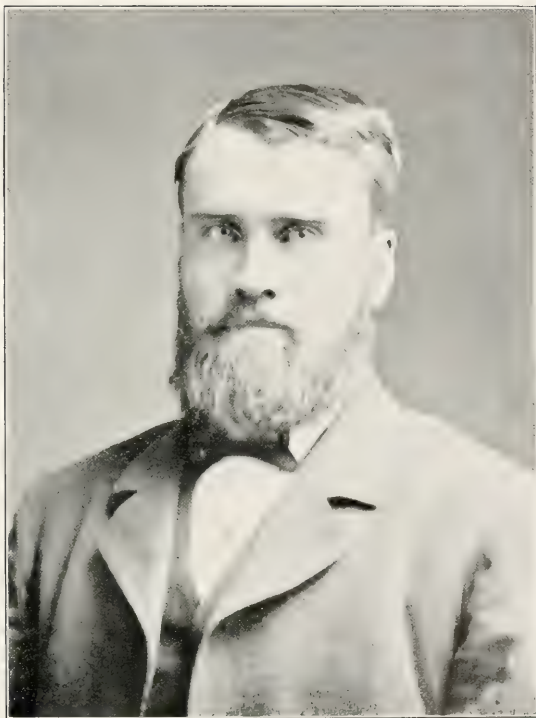
Mr. Hahne was married in the fall of 1889 to Lillian Eliza Perrott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius C. Perrott, of Schaller, and to this union there has been born one son, William Frederick, who was born January 27, 1899.

Politically, Mr. Hahne is a Republican and has been honored by his party by being nominated for township trustee and subsequently elected to that important position, and he is administering the affairs of that office to the entire satisfaction of all of the citizens of his township, irrespective of party lines. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in which order he takes an active interest. Mr. Hahne has always taken an active and interested part in the public affairs of his township and believes that the true American citizen best serves his community who takes his full share of the responsibilities of the official life of his community. For this reason he has felt that in performing the duties of township trustee he has been serving his fellow citizens in the best possible manner. He is a man of genial manner and pleasing personality and has a large number of loyal friends and acquaintances who admire him for his many good qualities.

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#### CHARLES AUSTIN EDSON.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Sac county within the pages of this work, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is he whose name appears above, peculiar interest attaching to his career from the fact that thirty years of his life have been spent within the borders of this county.



CHARLES A. EDSON



Charles A. Edson, a prosperous farmer, public-spirited citizen and distinguished Son of the Revolution, was born in September, 1847, in eastern Canada, on the Vermont line. He is one of the fortunate few who are able to trace their ancestry back to the body of American citizens who came over in the "Mayflower" in 1620. Alexander Edson, the great-grandfather of C. A. Edson, was in the Revolutionary War and his grandfathers on both sides, Alexander Edson and Timothy Wymian, were in the War of 1812. After the War of 1812, Alexander Edson settled on the Vermont-Canada line, where they lived the remainder of their days. The parents of C. A. Edson were Truman and Amanda Edson, who were natives of Maine, and never left their native country. They were the parents of three children, who are still living: C. A., whose history is portrayed here; Mrs. Mary Dexter, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Mrs. Eliza Boynton, of Tacoma, Washington.

C. A. Edson left the parental home when he was eighteen years of age, came west and located near Joliet, Illinois, in Will county. He stayed in Illinois until after his marriage, in 1870, and came to Sac county in 1885, where he bought three hundred and twenty acres of his present farm, in Eureka township, for which he paid thirty-seven and a half dollars an acre. The land at this time was but partially improved, and since he has acquired it he has built a new house and barn, and fenced and drained it in such way as to increase its value. Since buying the first three hundred and twenty acres he has never felt that he could successfully manage any more land, and consequently has devoted all his energy to the development of this half section. He raises a large amount of stock each year, specializing in cattle and hogs. In 1913 his farm produced seventy head of cattle and one hundred and twenty-five head of hogs, for which he found a ready market at a good price.

Mr. Edson was married September 11, 1870, to Elizabeth Barr, a native of Ireland. Mrs. Edson lost both her parents when she was an infant, and she came to this country from the north of Ireland when fourteen years of age with her sister and three brothers. Mr. and Mrs. Edson are the parents of four children: John T., who now manages the Lakeside farm at Storm Lake, and was for many years a banker at Schaller, Sac county; Willis C., who is an attorney in Storm Lake, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Mandeville, of Brookings county, South Dakota, and Emma, who is still with her parents.

In politics, Mr. Edson has always allied himself with the Republican party, but in 1912 he felt that the best interests of the country demanded a return of the Democratic party at the head of national affairs and, in accordance with this belief, he voted for Woodrow Wilson. He has always taken a

prominent part in local politics, and has served as school director and township trustee for ten years in his township. He has filled these positions to the entire satisfaction of all of the citizens of the township, irrespective of their politics. Mr. Edson has been a man of strict integrity and a high sense of honor. In the score and a half years which have elapsed since he became a resident of the township he has built up a reputation which has won for him the confidence and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### ANGUS McCORKINDALE.

Human life is like the waves of the sea; they flash a few brief moments in the sunlight, marvels of power and beauty, and then are dashed upon the remorseless shores of death and disappear forever. As the mighty deep has rolled for ages past and chanted its sublime requiem and will continue to roll during the coming ages until time shall be no more, so will the waves of human life follow each other in countless succession until they mingle at last with the billows of eternity's boundless sea. The passing of any human life, however humble and unknown, is sure to give rise to a pang of anguish to some heart, but when the "fell destroyer" knocks at the door of the useful and great and removes from earthly scenes the man of honor and influence and the benefactor of his kind, it not only means bereavement to kindred and friends but a public calamity as well.

The late Angus McCorkindale was born September 15, 1850, in Argyle, Argyleshire, Scotland, and died in Sac county, Iowa, on June 10, 1912. He came to America with his parents, four brothers and two sisters in July, 1865, and settled in Clinton county, Iowa. In 1878 the family moved to Sac county and located a farm in Richland township.

Mr. McCorkindale received his elementary education in the public schools of Scotland and on coming to this country assisted on the home farm until his marriage. He was married on September 21, 1882, to Florence A. Maloney, of Mt. Carroll, Illinois. She was born in Carroll county, Illinois, April 17, 1862, and is the daughter of J. S. and Frances Maloney, natives of Delaware and Canada, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. McCorkindale were born nine children: Mrs. Kate Pelton, the widow of Dr. H. C. Pelton, who died January 1, 1912, is now living with her mother and has one son, Robert A. The other children of Mr. and Mrs. McCorkindale are Jessie, Donald, Florence, William, Dorothy, Kenneth and two who are deceased, Florence

Grace and John Howard. Jessie is now in the University of Wisconsin, attending the school of domestic science.

Mr. McCorkindale was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Religiously, he was a life-long member of the Presbyterian church and was earnest in the faith as exemplified by that denomination. He was a man whom to know was to admire and because of his many good qualities of head and heart he had a host of friends throughout the community where he spent so many years of his life. In addition to his widow and the children, he was survived by one brother and two sisters: Malcolm, of Wakefield, Nebraska; Mrs. Catherine Stuart, of Wall Lake, and Mrs. Richard Shilleto, of Canada. Mr. McCorkindale was a plain, simple and dignified man, his devotion to every duty was intense, while his perfection of truth and worth made him a man who was esteemed by everyone. Always calm and straightforward, his life was a steady effort for the worth of Christian doctrine, the purity and grandeur of Christian principles and the duty and elevation of Christian character.

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#### PAT QUINN.

It is probably true that no people on earth have suffered more indignities and have had more discouragements to meet than have the people of the little island of Ireland. For more than three hundred years they have been under the domination of England and until within the last few years it was practically impossible for a native of the island to own land in fee simple. The result has been that its most enterprising citizens have left the country by the thousands, and there is not a state in the Union but what claims some of these sturdy people of the Emerald isle among its citizens. Among the settlers of Sac county, Iowa, who are of Irish descent and have made a phenomenal success in the agricultural line in this county, there is no one who is more deserving of mention than Pat Quinn, a farmer and stock breeder of Viola township, this county.

Pat Quinn was born April 4, 1855, in county Kilkenny, Ireland, and is the son of Edward and Johanna (Burke) Quinn. Mrs. Edward Quinn died in Ireland in 1913, at the advanced age of ninety years. Three sons and one daughter were born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Quinn: Pat, of whom this narrative speaks; Michael, now living on the old home farm in Ireland;



Thomas J., who lives in Nebraska; Kate, who died at the home of Mr. Quinn and is buried at Wall Lake, Iowa.

Pat Quinn received a very meager education in his home country and when sixteen years of age left home for the New World, and upon arrival in this country he at once went to DeKalb county, Illinois, where he lived for nine years. In 1880 he and his wife came to Sac county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres of land, but later sold this tract and then purchased the farm where he is now living in Viola township. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn have been successful from the start of their agricultural career in this country and are now the owners of three hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land in Viola township, one hundred and twenty acres in Boyer Valley township, four hundred and eighty acres in Nebraska and the five eldest children own six hundred and forty acres in Colorado, which gives them a total of one thousand five hundred and sixty acres of land, truly a remarkable acreage, which they have acquired solely through his own thrift and industry. Mr. Quinn has been a large breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle since 1893 and is now the owner of a herd of one hundred cattle, including twenty thoroughbred registered animals. He has been breeding Percheron horses since 1880, and now has twenty-five head of these animals. He has a fine farm in Viola township within sight of the town of Wall Lake.

Mr. Quinn was married at Clinton, Iowa, in November, 1882, to Mary King, the daughter of James and Anna (Wynne) King. James King was a native of Ireland and came to America in 1848, was married in this country and first settled in Chicago. Later the King family moved to Clinton, Iowa, and in 1890 came to Sac county and settled in Viola township, where James King died January 28, 1897; his wife had preceded him in death in November of 1892. Mr. and Mrs. King were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living: Patrick, a resident of Oklahoma; Mrs. Eleanor McDermot, of Union City, Pennsylvania; Mary, the wife of Mr. Quinn; Elizabeth, who lives in Chicago; Catherine and Thomas, both residents of Viola township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn are the parents of ten children: James Richard, of Boyer Valley township, who is married and has one daughter, Muriel Dorothy; Edward Vincent; Anna Eleanor; Johanna Agatha; Mary Cecilia; Elizabeth Frances; Catherine, deceased; John Wynne; Eleanor Margaret and Patrick Francis.

Mr. Quinn is a Democrat in politics and has been honored by his party by being nominated for the office of township trustee and was elected to this important position, serving for one term to the eminent satisfaction of all the citizens of the township. He and his family are earnest members of

the Catholic church and give of their time and means to the support of the church of their choice. Mr. Quinn is an admirable citizen in every way and has always taken an active interest in the various enterprises of his township. He is interested in schools and in the moral and religious life of his community, as well as every enterprise which promises to better the conditions of his locality. He has a host of friends and acquaintances throughout the township and county, who admire him for his many good qualities.

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### JAMES T. IRWIN.

Among the representative farmers of Sac county is the subject of this sketch, who is the owner of a fine landed estate in Boyer Valley township and is carrying on the various departments of his enterprise with that discretion and energy which are sure to find their natural sequence in definite success, having always been a hard worker, a good manager and a man of economical habits, and, being fortunately situated in a thriving farming community, it is no wonder that he stands today in the front rank of the agriculturists of this favored locality.

James T. Irwin, a prosperous farmer of Boyer Valley township, Sac county, Iowa, was born December 4, 1868, in Clinton county, Iowa. His parents, William Henry and Mary (Waugh) Irwin, were both natives of Pennsylvania and settled in Clinton county, Iowa, in about 1866. Here they remained on a farm until the spring of 1895, when they moved to Sac county, where the father died December 22, 1910; the mother is still living and makes her home with her children. To William H. and Mary Irwin were born nine children: George, deceased; Edward, of Sac City; Charles W., of Clinton township, this county; Walter, of Wall Lake township; Mrs. Aletta Vaughn, of Sioux City; Mrs. Jennie Davenport, of this county; William, of Clinton township; James T., whose history is herein portrayed, and Austin, of Odebolt.

James T. Irwin was educated in the public schools of Clinton county and remained on the home farm until his marriage in 1895. His parents then moved to Sac county, while he remained on the old home farm in Clinton county for the next three years. In 1898 he moved to Sac county and bought one hundred and sixty acres of forty-dollar land in Boyer Valley township. To this he added eighty acres, which he purchased in 1907 for one hundred and eight dollars an acre. He has improved his farm in various ways by the

erection of new buildings and the building of a great deal of fencing as well as the installation of a system of drainage. He has practically rebuilt all his barns and outbuildings and in 1904 erected a new ten-room house, which is modern throughout. He has his own private electric plant, which furnishes him power and lighting for his own use, a convenience which is enjoyed by few farmers in this section of the state. His farm is very productive in both grains and live stock and his annual shipment of stock includes a car load of cattle and one hundred head of hogs each year.

Mr. Irwin was married in 1895 to Martha D. Hill, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hill, of Clinton county, Iowa. To this marriage have been born four children: Ralph J., born December 11, 1895; Earl H., born February 6, 1900; Helen M., born September 11, 1907, and William Henry, born April 7, 1911.

Mr. Irwin is a Republican of progressive tendencies and has always kept himself well informed on the various political issues which confront the American people. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and render it such assistance as is in their power. Mr. Irwin is a fine type of the self-made man who has taken advantage of conditions and by his energy and persistence made a home for himself in this region of the United States.

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#### FRANCIS T. MARTIN.

One of the successful farmers and stock breeders of Viola township, Sac county, who has risen to a position of prominence, and is surrounded by extensive land holdings and commodious buildings of various kinds, is Francis T. Martin, who has a fine home located about midway between the towns of Wall Lake and Lake View. The distance between these two towns is four and one-half miles, and Mr. Martin's home is on the main thoroughfare and enables him to transact business at either point with but little inconvenience. On his farm two residences are maintained, barns of ample size, outbuildings of all kinds, silos, and every modern equipment which is usually found on a farm of this kind.

Being essentially a farmer, Mr. Martin has made his greatest success in the breeding of pure bred Aberdeen Angus cattle. His father, the late M. A. Martin, was one of the pioneer breeders of Angus cattle, and the success that he achieved would form an interesting chapter in the history of the breed. At the time of the dispersion of his herd in 1899 the work was turned

over to his son, Francis T. Martin, who is now entering upon the twenty-eighth year that he has been identified with the breed. But little attention was paid to the public exhibition of his stock, but cattle that were bred on the farm won distinguished careers in the greatest shows of the country. Probably his greatest success in this line was the bull "Valiant Knight 2d," bred on the farm and who was first in his class for three successive years at the International show at Chicago. This is the only bull of the breed that has won this honor up to the present time.

Francis T. Martin was born March 18, 1874, in St. Croix county, Wisconsin, the son of M. A. and Catherine Martin, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and who emigrated to America at an early date, first settling in Ohio, and later in Wisconsin. The senior Mr. Martin came to Sac county in the year 1875, and at the time of his death was the owner of seven hundred and forty acres of land, with improvements on each quarter section.

Francis T. Martin was educated in the district schools and later in the Wall Lake high school. He has been a wide reader on all matters pertaining to progressive agriculture and to improved live stock production. He has always displayed unbounded faith in live stock and land, and the Lakeside farm, upon which he resides, has been known for a third of a century as the home of the best improved stock that skill and judgment could produce.

Mr. Martin was married April 24, 1911, to Ada Albright, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albright, of Boone, Iowa. Their union has been blessed with a daughter, Mary Catherine, now two years of age.

Politically, Mr. Martin is a member of that large and increasingly numerous body of men who prefer to cast their ballot for the best men at election, irrespective of party affiliations. The day of partisan politics is past, fortunately, and men are now voting their convictions. Instead of stamping the eagle or the rooster, they are now glancing down the list of candidates, and are using judgment in selecting men who will represent the best interests of the people as a whole. He is not a member of any fraternal organization, but is active in the affairs of the National Aberdeen Angus Breeders' Association, as well as the Iowa State Breeders' Association.

Mr. Martin has established a firm reputation for honesty of purpose in all his dealings with his fellow men, and is a thorough believer in the workings of the Golden Rule and of its application to every day life. His qualities of head and heart are of commendable character, and he has always striven to contribute something that is worth while to the community in which he has spent practically every day of his life. The work that he has accomplished is worthy of specific mention in a volume of the character of the one in hand.

## JOHN H. GOSCH.

There are no thriftier people in Sac county today than those who are of German descent and while they have always been successful in their business affairs, they have also taken their full share in the public life of their respective communities.

John H. Gosch, one of the most prosperous farmers of Levey township, Sac county, Iowa, was born September 9, 1857, in Schleswig, Holstein, Germany. He is the son of Peter Frederick and Mary (Kuhr) Gosch, who spent all their lives in the land of their birth.

John H. Gosch received a good practical education in the public schools of Germany and when twenty-five years of age left his native land and came direct to Odebolt, Sac county, Iowa, landing here on October 9th. A few years later he married and went on a rented farm in Levey township, where he lived for three years. In 1888 he bought one hundred and twenty acres of land for twenty-six dollars an acre and in 1894 he added forty acres adjoining at the cost of fifty dollars an acre, bought from J. H. Knappen. The next purchase was in 1899, when he bought eighty acres at fifty dollars an acre from C. E. Allen; in 1906 he added eighty more acres adjoining at a total cost of sixty-four hundred dollars, purchased of Josias Skinner. In 1909 he purchased a quarter section in Osceola county, this state, for which he paid fifty-five dollars an acre. He has been prosperous from the start and is now recognized as a progressive farmer who never neglects to take advantage of the latest improvements in machinery or the newest methods in crop production. In 1910 he built a new home, enlarged his barn, erected a large corn crib and other buildings. In 1914 he erected a new barn, fifty by sixty feet in size. He markets from seventy-five to a hundred head of cattle and one hundred head of hogs annually.

Mr. Gosch was married March 10, 1885, to Mary M. Fleck. She was born September 12, 1863, in Germany and is the daughter of Johann Henry and Sophia Magdalena (Seeman) Fleck. She came to this country from her native land in 1883. To Mr. and Mrs. Gosch have been born ten children: Fred, who was accidentally killed while plowing on September 30, 1913, was twenty-seven years of age, married and left his widow with two children, Alfred Robert and Christian August; Johannes D., of Osceola county, who is married and has one son, Marvin Herman; Edward, of Levey township, who is married and has one daughter, Vera Edna. The remaining seven children, still with their parents, are Lorena Mary, Elsie Wilhelmina, Wilhelm, Elbert, Edna, Robert and Arthur.

Mr. Gosch has identified himself with the Democratic party since coming to this country, but is not a blind partisan, reserving the right to cast his ballot for the right man irrespective of politics. Since settling in his township he has served six years as township assessor and filled this position to the entire satisfaction of all of his fellow citizens. He and his family are earnest members of the German Lutheran church and contribute generously of their substance to its support. Mr. Gosch reserves a great deal of credit for his success, which has come about solely through his own efforts. He came to this county with no money and in the course of a few years was recognized as one of the substantial farmers of his township. He is a man who takes things easy and because of his clean and wholesome life is highly regarded by everyone with whom he is associated.

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#### CHARLES A. MARTIN.

Among the prosperous farmers and stock breeders of Viola township, Sac county, Iowa, who have made a notable success in their line of business, is Charles A. Martin, who was born December 25, 1867, in St. Croix county, Wisconsin, near New Richmond. He is a son of Michael A. and Katherine (Donahue) Martin, who were both natives of Ireland.

Michael Martin and Catherine Donahue came to America with their parents when they were children. They met in Wisconsin and were married in that state. In 1875 they came to Sac county, Iowa, settling in section 5, of this township, where they accumulated six hundred and sixty acres of land. Michael Martin was born in 1839 and died in August, 1913, while his wife is still living in Carroll, Iowa. Michael Martin and wife were the parents of seven children: Nora, the wife of J. J. Kemper, of Carroll, Iowa; D. E., of Roswell, New Mexico; Charles A., with whom this narrative deals; G. E., of Aurora, Illinois; Francis T., a stock breeder of this township; Clarence N., of Carroll county, this state, and Mrs. J. F. Holland, also of Carroll county.

Charles A. Martin was educated in the district schools of Wisconsin and Iowa, coming to Iowa with his parents when he was eight years of age and attended school for some time after coming to this state. He assisted his father on the work of his large farm until his marriage in 1898. He and his brother bought a farm in partnership in that year and continued to operate it together until the spring of 1909, when he sold out his interests in the

farm and purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Viola township, in sections 5 and 8. For many years he has been a breeder of registered live stock, making a specialty of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and had in 1913 sixty-five head of registered stock of this kind. His farm is well improved in every way and he has a large and commodious barn and other outbuildings.

Mr. Martin was married in September, 1898, to Nellie Duffy, of Waterloo, Iowa, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Duffy, and to this union have been born four children: Margaret, aged eleven years; Cyril, aged eight; Charles, aged five, and Arnold, who died in infancy.

While Mr. Martin is nominally a Democrat, yet he is independent in his voting. He reserves the right to cast his ballot for the best man, irrespective of politics. If every voter in the United States would exercise the same judgment much of the outcry against our officials would cease. He and his family are all earnest and devoted members of the Catholic church and contribute liberally of their substance and time to the support of their denomination. He is a man of liberal views, believing in progress and improvement, and does what he can to further these ends. He takes an interest in whatever he thinks will make for the material advancement of his county, as well as its social, intellectual and moral good.

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#### ALEXANDER McGEACHY.

From the nations of Europe have come many of the best citizens of Sac county, Iowa, and among these there have been a few who have claimed far-away Scotland as their native land. While that country has furnished only a few settlers for this county, yet the few who have come here have prospered and made good homes for themselves in this county. In their home country they learned habits of industry which they invariably brought with them to this country and wherever they have settled they have soon become among the most substantial citizens of their respective communities. Among the citizens of Sac county who are of Scottish ancestry, the late Alexander McGeachy stands as a prominent example.

Alexander McGeachy was born at Glen Barr, Killian parish, Argyle-shire, Scotland, on July 7, 1847, and died in this county on January 18, 1902. His parents were Malcolm and Jean (McCorkindale) McGeachy, the first of



whom lived and died in his native land. Jean came to America in 1873 and died a few years later in Sac county.

Alexander McGeachy came to America in 1870 and immediately went to Illinois, where he settled temporarily near Rockford. In the fall of the same year he went farther west and settled in Clinton county, Iowa, where he remained until his marriage, in 1878. He and his young wife then came to Sac county and located on a farm of one hundred acres on section 31, Clinton township. Six years later they were able to add sixty acres to their farm and by the time of Mr. McGeachy's death in 1902 they owned a fine farm of two hundred acres in this township. The land at first was a vast unbroken prairie, but they applied themselves with true Scottish determination to the task of bringing the land under cultivation and succeeded beyond their expectations.

Mr. McGeachy was married on January 10, 1878, in Monroe county, Iowa, to Isabelle McQuistan, who was born on February 14, 1852, at Saddell, Scotland, and is the daughter of Edward and Margaret (McAllister) McQuistan. The McQuistan family came to America in 1875 and first settled at Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois. In 1881 they came to Sac county, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. McQuistan were the parents of ten children: Mrs. John McLean, of this county; Donald, of Pender, Nebraska; John and Ronald, of Bloomfield, Nebraska; Mary, of Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. John McCullum, of Bloomfield, Nebraska, and Mrs. Andrew Bruce, of Kingsley, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. McGeachy were born seven children: Malcolm, Edward, Jean, Alexander, Margaret, Agnes and Isabelle, who died at the age of five years. Malcolm, Margaret and Alexander are still with their mother; Edward is a farmer in Levey township, this county; Jean married Earl Manly, a farmer of Clinton township, and Agnes is a student in the college at Cedar Rapids, this state.

Mr. McGeachy was a man of high civic ideals and a warm supporter of all measures and enterprises which were to promote the general welfare of his community. Politically, he was a Republican, but, while interested in the great political questions of the day, he never felt that he had the time to engage in politics. He and his family were life-long members of the Presbyterian church and contributed liberally of their means to its support. Mr. McGeachy was a man of great force of character and personality and enjoyed a wide degree of popularity in the community where he spent so many years. He left a good name which will be honored by his friends and cherished by his descendants.

## GEORGE WISEMAN.

The historian knows of no more pleasing or satisfactory accomplishment on the part of the individual than to have amassed a competence sufficient to enable him to live a contented life, free from care or annoyance, as a tiller of the soil. Owing to the fact that each year sees an increase of the hundreds of thousands of the populace who have to be sustained from the products of the soil, the science of agriculture has grown in importance until it now takes the lead of all occupations. A worthy example of the successful agriculturist who is now retired from the actual labor necessary to produce the crops annually yielded by his fertile acres is George Wiseman, of Sac City.

Mr. Wiseman was born on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, on August 4, 1858. His parents were John Wiseman, a native of Ireland, and Sarah Lloyd Wiseman, a native of New York state. The father of George Wiseman came to America in the year 1847, when past fifty years of age. He first located in Grant county, Wisconsin, on a farm and was there married to Sarah Lloyd. He died in Grant county in 1877. He was the father of four children: George; Mrs. Mary Crouch, residing near Wall, South Dakota, and two deceased. Mr. Wiseman had nine half brothers and sisters. At one time there were six brothers in Sac county among the early settlers, coming here as early as 1867, namely: Robert, of Auburn, Iowa; John A., of Auburn; Joseph, a farmer in Calhoun county, having come here in the year 1868; David, who resides now in Missouri; William, a resident of the state of Nebraska; Thomas, deceased; a sister, Mrs. Tanson Tillison, deceased; Edward, who died in Grant county, Wisconsin; James, who lives in Kansas.

George Wiseman made his first trip to Iowa in 1879, traveling the length of the state in order to view the country and probably find a suitable place for settlement. Evidently, he decided upon Sac county, for he located here in 1881. He purchased one hundred and thirty acres of land in Coon Valley township, on which he resided for over twenty years. Owing to his frugality and industry he has become the possessor of two very fine farms, totalling four hundred and sixty acres in all, well improved and in a high state of cultivation. He is the owner of eighty acres of land in Calhoun county. He removed to Sac City in 1901 and here resides in a handsome modern home. However, Mr. Wiseman exercises careful supervision over his farms in order that, under tenancy, the lands might not deteriorate in fertility or value.

Mr. Wiseman is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Methodist church. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, blue lodge and chapter.

Mr. Wiseman was united in marriage, in Grant county, with Mary Bean, in the year 1885. Mrs. Wiseman is a native of Grant county, Wisconsin, and is the mother of four children: Mrs. Maud Whitnell, of Kingsley, Iowa; Georgia Wiseman, a teacher in Nebraska; Ernest and Albert, at home.

By the exercise of indefatigable industry and good business judgment he has accomplished in a decade what usually requires a lifetime to complete. His first land in Sac township cost him fifteen dollars per acre. It had but few improvements. On the place was a small house, twelve by sixteen feet in extent, which had been erected by a pioneer in 1867. He remodeled this dwelling and later supplanted it with a more commodious residence. In 1895 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres additional and also a piece of timber land bordering on the Coon river for fifteen dollars an acre.

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#### HENRY J. ROBERTS.

A farmer of Sac county who has contributed his share to the material advancement of his community is Henry J. Roberts, of Wall Lake township, who was born July 28, 1874, in Cedar county, Iowa, and is the son of Joseph Johnson Roberts and Martha (Kelch) Roberts. Joseph Johnson Roberts was born in April, 1831, in Morristown, New Jersey, the son of Joseph Roberts, and came west to Iowa from New Jersey in 1868 and settled in Cedar county, this state, and in 1880 permanently settled in Wall Lake township, Sac county. Martha Kelch was born in Germany, on October 27, 1833, the daughter of Nicholas and Catherine Kelch, both of whom were natives of Germany. Joseph J. Roberts and Martha Kelch were married on March 20, 1855, and they were the parents of nine children: Joseph Francis, born June 16, 1856, died August 27, 1856; Charles C., born August 12, 1857, and died June 12, 1891; William Martin, born May 7, 1859; George De Forest, born January 2, 1862, died March 10, 1872; Hannah F., born January 19, 1864, died December 29, 1903; Joseph Harvey, born February 24, 1867, died October 25, 1907; Mrs. Catherine Reinhart, born April 17, 1869, shot by her husband June 6, 1900; Nicholas J., born February 7, 1873, died August 15, 1873; Henry Johnson, whose history is here presented, born July 28, 1874. Of these nine children there are only two living, William Martin and Henry

Johnson. The marriages of the Roberts family are as follows: Charles C. and Lydia Wilcox, on March 14, 1883, have one child, Myrtle; Hannah Roberts and John E. Franklin, March 16, 1887, have three children, Willie, Harvey, and a daughter who died in infancy; they live in Tacoma, Washington; William M. and Eva Fuller, December 25, 1888, have two children, Irene and Gladys, living in Clinton, Iowa; Katherine E. and Perry F. Bricker, March 27, 1888, two children, Percy, living in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the first-born, Henry Johnson, who died in infancy; Joseph Harvey and Mabel Van Trump, July 3, 1893, one child; Eugene, living in Portland, Oregon. Katherine E. Bricker was married the second time February 3, 1900, to Charles Reinhart, and three months afterwards was shot by her husband.

Henry J. Roberts has lived in Wall Lake township since he was six years of age, and has accordingly received his education in this county. He was never married, but lives on the old home place with his uncle, Nicholas Kelch, who was born April 30, 1846, in Morristown, New Jersey. Nicholas Kelch came to Illinois in 1865, and to Cedar county, this state, in 1884. In 1902 he came to Sac county to reside.

Henry J. Roberts is a Republican in politics, but has never been active in the councils of his party. Religiously, his parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their family always attended that church. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and also belongs to the Yeomen.

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### J. W. WILSON.

Faithful to facts in the analyzation of the character of a citizen of the type of J. W. Wilson, a well known and successful business man of Sac county, is all that is required to make a biographical sketch interesting to those who have at heart the good name of the community honored by his residence, because it is the honorable reputation of the man of standing and affairs, more than any other consideration, that gives character and stability to the body politic. While advancing his individual interests, he has never lost sight of his obligations to the community in general, where for many years he has held a high place in popular confidence and esteem.

J. W. Wilson, of the firm of Harter, Wilson, Brownell & Company, of Sac City, Iowa, was born February 23, 1851, in Montezuma, Poweshiek county, Iowa. His parents were Isaac N. and Elizabeth (Hardin) Wilson, both of whom were natives of Iowa. The Wilson and Hardin families left

Indiana and settled in Jefferson county, Iowa, Isaac Wilson being one of the pioneers of Poweshiek county and assisted in laying out the town of Montezuma, in that county. In 1863 Isaac Wilson went to Newton, Iowa, where he was in the mercantile business for a time, then left Newton and removed to Des Moines for three years. He then settled in Jefferson county, where he retired from active business, spending his declining years with his son, J. W., at Sac City, and died in that place in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac M. Wilson were the parents of five children: Matthew B. and Fred, who are in the West; James W., with whom this narrative deals; Mrs. Margaret E. Morris, a widow of Des Moines, Iowa, and Mrs. Ida M. Sifford, of North Dakota.

J. W. Wilson moved from Jefferson county to Carroll county, Iowa, in 1870, and farmed in that county for the next ten years. In 1880 he located in Wall Lake and engaged in the implement business. After a period of eleven years of successful business in Wall Lake, he moved to Sioux City in 1891 and engaged in the live stock and commission business in the stock yards of that city with Henry Rinehart, under the firm name of Rinehart & Wilson. Two years later he sold out and returned to Wall Lake, where he made the race for county auditor on the Republican ticket. He proved to be an effective campaigner and was elected and gave such an efficient administration during his first term that he was re-elected. Upon the expiration of his second term in 1898 he was appointed postmaster of Sac City and served for the next eight years in that capacity. Upon retiring from the postoffice, he became a member of the firm of Harter, Wilson, Brownell & Company, which deals in agricultural implements, harness, wagons, buggies, etc. The firm handles a complete stock of agricultural implements and vehicles and carries a twenty-thousand-dollar stock in Sac City, besides a branch office at Nemaha, where they have an equal amount of capital invested in the same business. They also have a branch house at Lytton, this county. The Sac City firm was established by Harter and Wilson in 1904 and in 1905 F. R. Brownell entered the firm. Prior to 1904 the business had been conducted by J. J. Harter for several years. The firm is now located in a large concrete and brick three-story building, occupying half a block on Fifth street in Sac City. The firm employs from eight to twelve men all the time and does a large and flourishing business throughout this section of the state.

Mr. Wilson was married on February 27, 1879, in Carroll county, Iowa, to Maria Jane Herring, who was born in Cedar county, Iowa. To this union have been born six children: Maud, who is with her parents; Mrs. Mabel Shulte, of Sac City, Iowa; Mrs. Beatrice Schmererham, of Omaha; Ina, a

nurse employed in the hospital at Omaha; James, Clifford and Fred, who are still at home with their parents.

The Republican party has claimed the support of Mr. Wilson since he has been old enough to vote and he has always been an active worker in his party. Being recognized as a man of sterling worth and character, he was elected to the office of county auditor and as a result of his efficient work in that office, as well as his work for the party, he received an appointment as postmaster of Sac City. All of the members of the family are faithful attendants of the Presbyterian church and render it zealous support in its various activities. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Sac City. For many years Mr. Wilson has been a potent factor in the civic life of his community, and no man stands higher in the estimation of the people than he.

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#### PLATT ARMSTRONG.

To have the honor of establishing a city does not fall to the lot of every man, and yet Platt Armstrong, of Lake View, is the father of that prosperous little city by the lake. He had the foresight to see that the site which he chose would be a good location for a town, and the subsequent history of Lake View has justified his judgment. Lake View is one of the beauty spots of Iowa and is situated on the shores of Wall lake. Mr. Armstrong's residence occupies a commanding and beautiful site overlooking the broad and rippling waters of the lake.

Platt Armstrong was born September 10, 1832, in Canada. He is the son of Henry and Martha (Guernsey) Armstrong, the latter being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Guernsey, of Vermont.

Mr. Armstrong was reared and educated in Canada and married before he left his native country. In 1854 he came with his family to Freeport, Illinois, then the terminus of the Illinois Central railroad. Here they secured wagons and drove overland to their Iowa destination from Freeport. He was accompanied by his wife and one son, Alden, whose biography is given elsewhere in this volume. From Freeport they journeyed to Clinton county, Iowa, and settled at Lost Nation. He purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, improved it and resided in Clinton county until 1877. He then sold his Clinton county property and moved to Sac county, having previously bought land in Wall Lake township. In 1880 he bought







MRS. AMANDA ARMSTRONG



PLATT ARMSTRONG



one hundred and sixty acres additional, but sold this in 1884, except ten acres of this quarter section, which he platted as part of the present town of Lake View. He platted Lake View in 1882 and has seen it thrive from the barren prairie to its present opulent condition. In 1892 he bought sixty acres on the north end of Wall lake and platted it for a residence section. In addition to his real estate holdings in Lake View, Mr. Armstrong has also handled land in Le Mars, in Plymouth county, and Pierson, Woodbury county.

Mr. Armstrong has the honor of serving his country faithfully and well during the long struggle in the sixties. He enlisted from Clinton, Iowa, September 3, 1862, in Company I, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry, under Capt. Edward Wimple and Col. Milo Smith. He was before Vicksburg until July 12, 1863, and after participating in many engagements and skirmishes became ill and was sent to Jefferson barracks, at St. Louis, and then invalided to the federal hospital at Keokuk. Here his faithful wife, who had been left with the care of five children during the war, came on to care for and nurse him back to health and strength. He was honorably discharged June 15, 1865. His company was attached to the First Brigade, First Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, and participated in the following engagements: Chickasaw Bayou, Fort Hindman or Arkansas Post, Deer Creek, Black Bayou expedition, Jackson, Vicksburg, and many minor engagements, such as Clinton, Jackson, Raleigh, Rienzi, Brandon, Bear Creek and Tuscombia, Cherokee. The company was also engaged in the great battles of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Ringgold and Pea Vine Creek, the famous march to the sea, the capture of Savannah, and at Columbia, South Carolina. He was also in the subsequent Carolina campaign, and marched in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., after having served until June 12, 1865.

In recent years, Mr. Armstrong has been attending to his large farming interests. He is now farming three hundred and twenty acres near Lake View. He has also been engaged in the banking business at Merville, Iowa, but has now disposed of his interest in that bank.

Mr. Armstrong was married a second time, on November 25, 1856, to Amanda McCarter, a sister of his first wife, and who was born July 23, 1829, in Lisbon, St. Lawrence county, New York. To this second marriage have been born seven children: Kimball, a farmer of Lake View; Moody, who was killed by a horse on July 4, 1899; Rufus, of Medicine Hat, Canada; Mrs. Millie Thayer, of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Nina L. Mann, who is at home with her parents; Lowry, of Lyle, Washington, and Guernsey, who died in infancy. Mrs. Armstrong is the daughter of Robert and Amanda

(Marshall) McCarter, who were of Scotch descent. Her grandfather was a native of Scotland, who emigrated to Ireland. Mr. Armstrong and his wife have traveled extensively and have had many unique experiences during the course of travel. They were caught in the railroad wreck on November 1, 1913, while on their way to Brookings, South Dakota, and Mrs. Armstrong was slightly injured. They have made several trips to the state of Washington, as well as other points on the Pacific coast.

Mr. Armstrong was old enough to cast his first vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, and voted for Abraham Lincoln at the front in Georgia, and has never seen any reason why he should change his political faith to any other than that of the Republican party. In his religious affiliations, he belongs to the Christian Scientist church and contributes liberally to its support. He is a loyal member of the Grand Army post at Lake View. Mr. Armstrong's life has been one of continuous activity from his earliest boyhood and because of his good business judgment, he has acquired a very comfortable competency for his declining years. His life has been full of good work, and many people have cause to be thankful because he has lived in this community. He has always had the welfare of his city at heart, and as "the father of the city" his name will go down to succeeding generations as the man who put Lake View on the map of the United States.

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#### CHARLES D. GOLDSMITH.

If a resume were to be written of the successful and influential attorneys of the northwestern part of Iowa, the name of Charles D. Goldsmith, of Sac county, would occupy a high position. In the legal profession he has supplemented the practice of the essentials with a wealth of common sense. In every profession theories and rules cannot be literally interpreted; they act as guides alone and the human equation is the force that impels decisions of merit. In judicious foresight, cool calculation and prompt initiative, Mr. Goldsmith has excelled. He stands for the lawyer, in the true sense of that word, that is to say, the man who advocates a sympathetic reading of the law, and not a merciless, steely and unyielding interpretation. Charles D. Goldsmith has won for himself a reputation for high integrity, and his courteous, affable nature, savored with a brilliant fund of wit, have won for him countless friends and clients among the good people of Sac county and this section of Iowa.

Charles D. Goldsmith, ex-district judge and now a practicing attorney of Sac City, Iowa, was born December 16, 1841, in Middletown, New York. He is the son of John M. and Martha A. (Davis) Goldsmith, natives of Orange county, New York, and descendants of old New England families. John M. Goldsmith was a contractor and builder in New York.

Charles D. Goldsmith received his education in the schools of New York and in August, 1861, enlisted in Company I, Fifty-sixth Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, and served for four years and four months. He was in the Peninsula campaign of 1862 when Gen. George B. McClellan attempted to take Richmond. Thence he was transferred to South Carolina and, with his regiment, was stationed in this state until the end of the war, being mustered out October 15, 1865. In January of the following year he was married and came to Iowa a year later, locating in Hamilton county, where he was admitted to the bar. After practicing five years in this county he located in Newell, Buena Vista county, Iowa, where he practiced for six years. In 1879 he came to Sac City and for six years was in partnership with William H. Hart. In 1889 he was appointed district judge of this county and in the fall of the same year was elected to this office. He received his commission January 1, 1890, and served a term of four years, to the entire satisfaction of the county. Since that time he has not been a candidate for any public office, preferring to devote all of his attention to his increasing legal practice. He has a reputation in this part of the state as one of the keenest lawyers who has ever appeared before a jury and in the various cases which he has conducted he has shown a rare knowledge of the intricacies of legal procedure.

Mr. Goldsmith was married in January, 1866, to Delia E. Borland, and in December, 1883, to Emily Baxter. To these unions have been born three children: Delmont, who is president of the Salem, South Dakota, Bank; Karl, an attorney and a member of the law firm of Horner, Martens & Goldsmith, at Pierre, South Dakota, and also president of the Pierre National Bank. The third child of Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith was Mrs. Blanche Murray deceased.

Politically, Mr. Goldsmith is a Democrat and has always taken a deep interest in political affairs, although he has never been a candidate for any public office since retiring from the judgeship. He and his wife are regular attendants of the Episcopal church and contribute of their substance to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. As a lawyer, Mr. Goldsmith has ever maintained a high standing, never descending beneath

the dignity of his profession or compromising his usefulness by practicing any but noble and legitimate practice. Personally, he is a pleasing gentleman to meet, honest and upright at all times, not only held in high esteem for his superior professional ability, but for his public-spirited nature and wholesome private life.

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### JOHN SPURRELL.

Many people from many climes have found a permanent home in Sac county, Iowa. Nearly every nation in Europe is represented in the cosmopolitan population of this county, among whom are a few native-born Englishmen. The citizens of English ancestry in this county have been among the most substantial and enterprising people of the county and have played an important part in the development of their adopted country.

An Englishman who became a pioneer in Sac county, and now resides at Wall Lake, is John Spurrell, who was born in the county of Norfolk, England, August 18, 1848, and came to America with his parents, James and Eliza Spurrell, in 1853. The family lived a short time in Cleveland, Ohio, where the father was employed on the Lake Shore railroad, but later came to Iowa, landing at Sabula, Jackson county, January 5, 1854. The following March they moved to a farm in section 18, Deep Creek township, Clinton county, Iowa.

On May 26, 1874, John Spurrell was married to Charlotte Rossiter, the daughter of James and Ellen Rossiter, natives of England. Mrs. Spurrell was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1854, and accompanied her parents in 1855 from her native state to Washington township, Clinton county, Iowa. John Spurrell and his family removed to Sac county, Iowa, in the month of April, 1875, settling on the southwest quarter of section 6, Viola township, where they lived until April 16, 1912, when Mrs. Spurrell died. To this marriage six children were born, four of whom died in infancy. The surviving children are Ruby E. Spurrell and John A. Spurrell.

Mr. Spurrell has a farm consisting of almost two hundred and sixty-seven acres. He fenced forty acres of this farm with hog-tight fencing in the spring of 1876, and it is thought that this was the first forty acres so fenced in Sac county. It consisted of three boards and two smooth wires. The lumber was all hauled from the west side of the county and the posts from Grant City. There was at that date only one bridge between his farm and Grant City and that was across the Coon river.



Mr. Spurrell has been highly successful in agriculture and stock raising, and is an excellent citizen of the township and county in which he resides. His son, John A. Spurrell, has written the acceptable article on the "Animals and Birds of Sac County," which is found elsewhere in this work.

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### FRANK R. MOLSBERRY, D. D. S.

There are many avenues open toward the goal of success for the young men of the present day. Not all who are called to enter the various lines of endeavor are rewarded with success. The learned and skillful professions have ever been attractive to the young individual who would seek to advance himself from among the average of mankind. Nowadays, where there seems to be a tendency to increase the numbers of those whose profession is to leaven and ease the sufferings of mankind, the successes are oftentimes notable and clearly defined. Though newcomers to Sac City, in a certain sense, Molsberry brothers, practicing dentists, have already established themselves as a component and useful part of the community body. Dr. F. R. Molsberry, with whom this biography is particularly concerned, is certainly entitled to a place of prominence in the pages of this history, plainly because of his sterling worth, educational attainments, pronounced ability in the practice of his chosen profession, and his general and specific usefulness as a citizen.

F. R. Molsberry was born in Plymouth, Worth county, Iowa, June 11, 1876. His father was William P. Molsberry, a native of Ohio and the son of J. M. and Jane (Jordan) Molsberry. W. P. was born on March 8, 1840, and migrated to Iowa with his parents in 1854. He was reared to young manhood on a pioneer farm in Worth county and there married Anna Heiny, a native of Bohemia, Austria, who emigrated to America with her parents when a young girl in her teens. The senior Molsberry followed farming as a regular occupation until of late years, when he has practically retired. Until recently he made his home in Wyoming, but spends the major portion of his declining years in sojourning among his children, with whom he is always welcome. He moved from Worth county to Wyoming in 1904. He is the father of ten children, namely: Mary, wife of E. L. Smith, of Kensitt, Iowa; Emma, wife of John McMutrie, of Maley, Iowa; Minnie, wife of V. E. Pesak, of Manley, Iowa; J. J., a resident of Plymouth, Iowa; Effie, wife of J. F. Dostal, of Minneapolis; Bertha, wife of James Crimmons, of Grafton,

Iowa; Irene, wife of A. R. Merrill, of Thermopolis, Wyoming; Dr. F. R. and Dr. W. I. Molsberry, of Sac City.

Doctor Molsberry was educated in the district schools and in the Plymouth high school and the high school of North Springs, Iowa. He entered the State University after the necessary preparation in the public and high schools and graduated from the dental department in 1905. For a period of three years he practiced his profession in the city of Sheldon, Iowa, and in 1908 removed to Sac City, where he was soon joined by his brother. He enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice and is one of the most popular young professional men of the city. His qualifications are of a varied order, he being an accomplished musician. This talent being inevitably discovered by his associates in the city, he was selected as manager and director of the Sac City Commercial Club Band, a position in which he is serving without pecuniary reward. This band was organized in December, 1912, and is composed of an excellent array of talented players and musicians. The credit of the efficiency of the band and its continual growth in popularity is due in a large measure to the excellent management and direction given it by Doctor Molsberry. He is a Republican in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Sac City.

Doctor Molsberry was married on June 1, 1911, to Elma Pearl Cooper, of Sac City. They have one child, a daughter, named Floris Evelyn.

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### ALEXANDER GALBRAITH.

From the land of "Bobbie Burns" have come thousands upon thousands of the sturdy sons of Scotland who have ranked among the best and most worthy of the citizens of this cosmopolitan country, wherein the best blood of the Old World has fused in the creation of a race of men whose achievements have been the wonder of the ages. Most of the sons of Scotland who have journeyed far from the lands of their fathers have been poor in this world's goods, but have been endowed with wonderful gifts which have enabled them to bear bravely the vicissitudes incidental to the life of the pioneer and to become successful in the true meaning of the word. Sac county has within its confines a number of excellent and well-born Scotch-American families whose sons rank among the best citizens in the West. In the setting of his years, but still possessing much of the mental and physical vigor which has enabled him to found a home and family in this new coun-

try, we find Alexander Galbraith, of Sac City, a fitting and deserving personage who is entitled to recognition as one of the sturdy pioneers of Scotch birth who has done his part in the development of Sac county and bequeathed to posterity a heritage of honesty and uprightness which will be long remembered.

Alexander Galbraith was born in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, May 12, 1833. He is the son of Alexander and Sarah Demery Galbraith, who emigrated to America and settled in the old state of Connecticut in the year 1841. Alexander, Sr., died in Scotland in the year 1838. The widow, desiring to settle in the new land of promise in order that her children might have a better opportunity of gaining a livelihood and amassing a competence, crossed the ocean with her two children, Alexander and Samuel, in 1841. Two older daughters, Ann and Nancy, remained in Scotland. As soon as they became old enough for manual labor the two sons were employed in the Colt fire-arm factory in Connecticut and were still at work in the factory when the Civil War broke out. Alexander longed for the new lands of the West and was ambitious to possess a farm and homestead of his own. Consequently, we find this sturdy young Scotch boy, in the year 1864, on his way to Iowa. On February 22, 1864, or thereabouts, he arrived in Cedar county, and remained there for seven years engaged in farming. In March, 1871, he joined the large influx of migrants and located in Sac county. He bought a farm in Douglas township, and at present enjoys the distinction of being the oldest living settler of this township. Like all the new comers of that day, he was very poor. However, the thrift and perseverance which was his by right of heritage, enabled him to eventually prosper and forge ahead. He became a landed proprietor of moderate wealth and influence and owned, before his retirement, four hundred and eighty acres of rich farming land in the northwest part of Douglas township, of which his sons now own the greater part. In the year 1902 he retired, with his estimable wife, to a residence in Sac City, where he is enjoying the fullness of a well rounded and useful life to the utmost. Mr. Galbraith has been a lifelong Republican, but in the election of 1912 he aligned himself with the Progressive party, because he firmly believed that it best represented his political principles and beliefs. He and his good wife are members of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Galbraith is fraternally connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, lodge and encampment, and the Daughters of Rebekah.

Mr. Galbraith was married on February 17, 1864, to Sarah Demery, who was born in Scotland on September 28, 1837. This aged and respected couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on February 17, 1914.

A host of relatives, children, grandchildren and friends were at hand to tender their congratulations and extend their good wishes. They have reared seven children and have sixteen grandchildren. The children are as follows: William, a grain dealer at Owens, Iowa, and who is the father of two children, Earl and May; George Henry, a farmer of Calhoun county, who has five children, Fay, Leon, Robert, Sadie and Doris; Frank Galbraith, a farmer in Douglas township, who is the parent of three children, Julian, Cecil and Vera; Rutherford, a resident of Newell, Iowa, and who is the father of one child, Naomi; Mrs. W. L. Cole, of Douglas township, the mother of four children, Guy, Lola, Reo and Lucille; Charles Galbraith, of Whittier, California, who has one child, Kenneth; Mrs. Bessie Walters, of Delaware township.

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#### F. R. HIERSCHE.

Among the retired farmers of Sac City who are living lives of comfort after many years of hard labor, there is no one who is more deserving of mention in this volume than F. R. Hiersche. He is one of that large class of German citizens who have made Sac county their home and he has all those excellent qualities which characterize the successful German citizens of the county. He was born March 6, 1860, in Clinton county, Iowa, and is the son of Rudolph and Sadie (Barton) Hiersche, natives of Germany and New York state, respectively.

Rudolph Hiersche was born in 1844 in Germany and came to America in the spring of 1854. He first settled in Clinton county, Iowa, and while living in this county he was married, after which he continued to live the life of a farmer in Clinton county until 1884, in which year he moved to Sac county and settled in Lake View, where he became engaged in the lumber business. In 1900 he went to Oklahoma, where he died on March 31, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Hiersche were the parents of six children: F. R., whose life history is here portrayed; Mrs. Hattie Cain, who lives in Paullina, Iowa; Fred B., of Mankato, Minnesota; George W., of Gerry, Oklahoma; Charles R., of Watonga, Oklahoma, and Louis H., of Dale, Oklahoma.

F. R. Hiersche received his education in the schools of Clinton county, this state, and remained with his parents until his marriage, in 1883. He and his young wife then came to Clinton township, this county, where they purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 34. Two years later they moved to Lake View, where Mr. Hiersche engaged in the lumber busi-

ness with his father. Later he went back to his farm and managed it for three years, then sold this tract and bought two hundred and forty acres in Boyer Valley township, in sections 11 and 14. In 1911 he moved to Sac City and retired from the active cares of life.

Mr. Hiersche was married February 21, 1883, in Maquoketa, Jackson county, Iowa, to Clara Bolton, a daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Bolton, who were early settlers of Jackson county. Mr. and Mrs. Hiersche are the parents of three children, Earl F., a farmer of Boyer Valley township, this county, and Irma B. and Lora May, who are still under the parental roof.

Politically, Mr. Hiersche is identified with the Republican party, but has confined his political activities to the casting of his ballot for his party's candidate at election time. He and his family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and take an interest in all of the various activities of their particular denomination.

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#### WILLIAM F. BUEHLER.

Sac county can boast of as many German citizens to its population as any other county in the state of Iowa, and it is safe to say that there are no more prosperous farmers in this county than those of German descent. The late Jacob Buehler has three sons who are prosperous farmers in Richland township, and William F. Buehler, whose history is here presented, is no less prosperous than his two brothers.

William F. Buehler was born in Richland township, this county, on February 6, 1876. The reader is referred to the ancestral history of the Buehler family in the sketch of Jacob Buehler, deceased, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

William F. Buehler was educated in the district schools of his home township, attending the school known as the Petersmeyer district school. Early in life he decided to follow the vocation of his father, who was a successful farmer, and when twenty-two years of age he started out for himself. In 1900 he bought eighty acres of land, for seventy-five dollars an acre, and later added forty acres more to this, for which he paid one hundred dollars an acre, and he is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of his own, and is farming forty acres in addition. In the fall of 1900 he erected a concrete house, which is thoroughly modern in its equipment, containing ten rooms and has all the conveniences which characterize an up-to-date, com-

fortable home. Mr. Buehler has found, as have most of the other farmers of this county, that in order to get the most from the soil, it is necessary to feed as much stock as possible. The successful farmer feeds most of his own grain to his stock and thus enriches his soil, as well as fills his own purse. Mr. Buehler always keeps a good breed of stock and is now handling Short-horn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs, both of which he has found profitable.

Mr. Buehler was married April 6, 1898, to Sadie Blass, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Blass, early settlers of Sac county. The Blass family first lived in Crawford county, this state, but later settled in Sac county. Mr. and Mrs. Buehler have an interesting family of eight children: Florence and Vernon are in the Odebolt high school; Etta, Emmett, Gladys and Catharine are in the district schools, while the youngest, Ellen and John, are still at home.

Mr. Buehler is a Republican in politics and casts his ballot on election days for the candidates of that party. He has been honored by his party by being elected to the township school board and is now acting as president of that body. He and the members of his family are adherents of the Methodist Episcopal church and render it their faithful and liberal support. He is a man who takes an active interest in the welfare of his community, lending his sympathetic aid to all such enterprises as he deems worthy and conducive to the betterment of his locality.

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### JOSEPH KONRADI.

There are today in Sac county, Iowa, representatives of more than a dozen foreign nations, but the Germans outnumber any other class of citizens who have settled in this county from foreign shores. Some one has called the United States the "melting pot" of the world, and when one considers the case of a typical county like Sac county, where a dozen nationalities are welded together into a body politic which is imbued with the genuine American spirit, it can be readily seen why the United States deserves the name. These men from across the Atlantic come here for the sole reason that they think this is the best country in the world in which to cast their fortunes, and the prosperity which has attended the efforts of these men in this country justifies their belief that this is so.

Joseph Konradi, one of Sac county's prominent German citizens, was

born in September, 1852, at Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, the son of John and Elizabeth (Beitz) Konradi, who came to this country after their son, Joseph, made the trip.

Joseph Konradi came to America from his native land in 1868, with his grandfather, Peter Beitz, who paid his passage to this country. In the same party was Peter Dinges, a prosperous farmer of this county, and upon arriving in this country they immediately went westward and located in Lee county, Illinois. Shortly afterwards the remainder of the Konradi family came from Germany and settled in Crawford county, Iowa. In 1875 John Konradi came to Sac county, and in 1876 bought three hundred and twenty acres of prairie land in section 10, Richland township, for fifteen dollars an acre, and this farm is now owned by a half-brother of Joseph Konradi. John Konradi is now past ninety years of age and lives with his son, Jacob. John Konradi and wife were the parents of five children: Jacob, of Sac county; Anna, who lives in Nebraska; Lannie and Randolph, also residents of Nebraska, and Mrs. Susie Flynn, of this county. Mr. Konradi has been twice married, his second wife being Mary Schmidt.

In 1883 Joseph Konradi began farming for himself on eighty acres which his father gave him. Since then he has bought eighty acres, so that he is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all of which is excellent land. He has a fine orchard, plenty of shade trees, and a good home, which is set back from the road and presents a very attractive appearance to the passersby. Since taking over this farm, Mr. Konradi has erected all the buildings and set out all the trees.

Mr. Konradi has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1878, died in 1881, leaving one daughter, Clara, who was the wife of Roy Johnson, of near Galva, Iowa, and who died in 1913. On May 27, 1881, Mr. Konradi was married to Elizabeth Auchstetter, of Sac county, and to this marriage have been born eleven children: John, of Jackson, Minnesota; Mrs. Katrina Henrich, whose husband is a farmer of Richland township; Mrs. Elizabeth Ahlbrasch, also a resident of Richland township; Mrs. Minnie Messer, who lives in Jackson county, Minnesota; Joseph Peter, a farmer of Richland township, this county, and Antone, Margaretta, Nicholas, Jacob, Emma and Romaine Faldine, who are still at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Konradi is a Democrat, while in his religious affiliations he, with his family, are loyal and earnest members of St. Martin's Catholic church at Odebolt, to which they give their zealous support at all times.



## HENRY RABE.

The descendants of German citizens in this county are useful and prosperous citizens wherever they are found. There are a number of the best and most substantial citizens of the county who have been born in Germany, and still a larger number whose parents were natives of the fatherland. A large majority of the German population of the county is engaged in farming and there are no more efficient farmers in the county than are these sons of Germany. Among the Germans who came to this country and started in with practically nothing, there is no one who has attained to a more pronounced prosperity than has Henry Rabe, who is now the proprietor of fine farming lands in Richland township.

Henry Rabe, the son of Henry and Louisa (Wegner) Rabe, was born September 21, 1865, in Neuschstadt, Riebenbachsh, Germany. His parents came to this country in 1874 and, after stopping temporarily in Chicago, they settled in Sac county, Iowa, in the spring of 1875, on the place where the son is now living. They purchased one hundred and sixty acres, forty of which was railroad land, for which they paid seven and eight dollars an acre. On this they erected a frame house, eighteen by twenty-four in size, building it out of lumber which they brought from Chicago with them. Henry Rabe, Sr., died the following year, in February, 1876, leaving his widow with five children: Henry, whose history forms the theme of this narrative; Mrs. Louisa Reuber, of Odebolt; Ferdinand, deceased; William, a farmer of Richland township, and Wilhelmina, deceased. A few years after the death of Mr. Rabe, his widow married August Dannenberg, of Odebolt, and now lives in that city.

Henry Rabe received most of his schooling in Germany and, although he was only eleven years of age at the time of his father's death, yet he manfully shared the responsibility of caring for his mother and the younger children of the family. Upon reaching his majority he purchased the home farm, in section 8, which his mother purchased after the father's death, and added another eighty in section 9 to this, making him a total of one hundred and forty acres of land, which is now easily worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. He has a fine farm home, which is modern in every respect, has twelve rooms and is so constructed as to render it a very attractive home. In 1911 Mr. Rabe added to his land holdings by purchasing three hundred and twenty acres in sections 3 and 4, in this township, and with his five hundred and sixty acres of land he raises a large amount of live stock each year,

and averages at least one car load of cattle yearly. He has shipped as many as four car loads of hogs annually.

Mr. Rabe was married on February 3, 1889, to Mary Hausman, a native of Illinois, and the daughter of Conrad Hausman, an early settler of Sac county, Iowa. To this marriage there have been born five children, Louie, Alfred, Rosina, Louisa and Ralph; all of these children are still under the parental roof except Alfred, who is operating a farm in Richland township.

Politically, Mr. Rabe is independent in politics, preferring to cast his ballot for men and their principles rather than for party and its emblems. He and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church and render it their zealous and earnest support.

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#### PETER H. DINGES.

Among the younger generation of farmers who are coming to the front as prosperous agriculturists is found Peter H. Dinges, of Richland township, who is operating a two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm in section 17, this township. He was born January 31, 1874, in Lee county, Illinois, the son of John and Catharine Dinges.

Peter H. Dinges was educated in the public schools of Richland township and supplemented his educational training by taking a course in the Valparaiso Normal School, at Valparaiso, Indiana. In the meantime his parents had moved to Sac county, Iowa, in 1880, and after leaving school began farming for himself in 1897. Upon his marriage, in that year, his father gave him eighty acres of land, and since that time he had added one hundred and sixty acres, giving him a total acreage of two hundred and forty acres of fine farming land. He paid sixty-five dollars an acre for his first eighty and one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for his second eighty. In 1906 he remodeled the old homestead and built a new barn. He has a corn crib with a capacity of seventeen thousand bushels, which is considered the largest corn crib in Sac county. He erected this in 1913, at a cost of nearly three thousand dollars. It is roofed and sided with sheet steel, and contains a horse-power engine to be used in filling and emptying the immense bins. There is a pit in the crib which holds two hundred bushels of corn and when this is filled it is carried by elevator power to various parts of the crib.

In October, 1897, Mr. Dinges was married to Mary Langin, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of John and Mary (Breen) Langin, who

are now residing in South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Dinges are the parents of eleven children: Joseph, born August 13, 1898; Helen, born December 14, 1899; Leo, born May 20, 1901; William, born October 11, 1902; Clement, born February 13, 1904; Mary, born December 20, 1905; Alice, born August 17, 1907, and died December 15, 1909; Florence, born October 13, 1909; Esther, born March 3, 1911; Rita, born October 7, 1912.

Politically, Mr. Dinges is an adherent of the Democratic party and lends his support to the candidates of that party. He and his family are loyal members of the St. Martin's Catholic church at Odebolt, while he is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Carroll. Mr. Dinges is one of the most progressive farmers of his township, as is evidenced by the success which has attended his efforts since beginning to farm in this township. His corn crop in 1913 was ninety acres and averaged fifty-five bushels to the acre, and this included a considerable acreage of popcorn. His career as a farmer in his community has been inspirational because of the progressive methods which he uses and the study of his career by the young men of his county, and shows what can be accomplished by scientific farming in this part of the state.

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### VALENTINE HENRICH.

The gentleman whose life history forms the theme of this narrative is one of the many German settlers who have made Sac county, Iowa, the prosperous community which it is today. Landing in this country at the age of nineteen, when his capital consisted solely of his strong hands and a willing heart, he has attained to a position of influence in this county, which has been accomplished solely through his own efforts. The study of the career of such a life should be an inspiration to those of the coming generation who little realize the privations and discouragements which often faced our forefathers in settling up a new country.

Valentine Henrich, retired farmer of Odebolt, Iowa, was born June 12, 1850, in Hesse-Nassau, Germany. His parents, Philip and Elizabeth Henrich, belonged to the High German class of their native land and lived all of their days in the land of their birth.

Valentine Henrich came to America with a group of friends in 1869, landing in New York City in March of that year. He immediately went to Chicago, where he worked for a year and a half at his trade of carpentering. He then located in Lee county, Illinois, and worked as a farm laborer until

1875. He then married and began to rent land in Lee county, Illinois, with the intention of later on going farther west and purchasing a farm of his own. Accordingly, in 1882, he came with his family to Sac county, Iowa, and for the first two years rented land in Richland township. Feeling that it would be to his interest to own a farm of his own, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 8, in Richland township, for twenty-five dollars an acre. He went into debt for the total amount, built a small house and started in to pay for his land. It was not an easy task, for he had the grasshoppers, storms, drought and many other discouragements to meet, but he stuck to his farm with characteristic German determination and within fifteen years had it all paid for. One thing which made it difficult to pay off the debt any sooner was the fact that he had to pay the high rate of eighteen per cent. interest on his borrowed money. As soon as he had his farm paid for, he bought another quarter section in Boyer Valley township for fifty dollars an acre, but later traded this farm for one hundred and twenty acres near Odebolt, and he is now the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of well improved land in Richland township, and realizes a very profitable return from his land holdings. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in South Dakota. He moved to Odebolt in March, 1907, where he owns a modern home with all of the conveniences of life.

Mr. Henrich was married November 25, 1875, in Sublet, Lee county, Illinois, to Caroline Dinges, who was born March 30, 1855, in that county. To this marriage there have been born seven children, all of whom are living: Mrs. Christina Roeder, of Ida county, Iowa, who has seven children, Caroline, Albert, Francis, Esther, Leonard, Raymond and Marguerite; Mrs. Mary Zeigmann, who lives in Levey township, this county, who has seven children, Albert, Leo, Gertrude, Joseph, Bernard, Margaret and Lawrence; Peter, of South Dakota, who is married and has eight children, Frances, Romaine, Dorothy, Helen, Marguerite, Carroll, Floyd and Leo; John, of Richland township, this county, is married and has three children, Gertrude, Leona and Howard; John, who died in infancy; Mrs. Josephine Mandernach, of Richland township, has two daughters, Hazel and Lorene; Joseph, a farmer of Richland township, who has three children, Leonard, Florence and Ellis; Gertrude, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Henrich, is still with her parents in Odebolt.

It is interesting to note that two brothers of Mr. Henrich who came to this country have likewise prospered. Balthazer is a prosperous farmer of Minnesota, while Martin is equally flourishing in LeMars, Iowa. They came

to this county in 1881 and are highly respected citizens of the communities in which they are living.

Mr. Henrich gives his vote to the Democratic party and subscribes to the principles as set forth by the leaders of that organization. He and all the members of his family are adherents of the Catholic church and render to it their earnest and loyal support. They are members of the St. Martin's parish and take an active interest in all the affairs of their church. In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Henrich made a trip to Europe, visiting in England, France, Switzerland and Germany. They called on their old friends and relatives and had the pleasure of seeing the famous "Passion Play" at Oberammergau, in Austria.

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### JUERGEN P. GOSCH.

The farming profession has been revolutionized within the last fifty years, and the farmer of today in Iowa has so modernized the former methods of agriculture that he has very few of the disadvantages of a past decade to contend with in tilling the soil. The pioneers themselves now living in Sac county have come up through this great transformation in agricultural methods and have prospered accordingly. Scores of inventions have been put on the market which enable the farmer to lead a life of ease as compared with the hardships of an earlier day. The farmer is certainly the most independent man of the country and all other professions must bow to him. Iowa is known throughout the length and breadth of this country as one of the leading agricultural states of the Union and Sac county is one of its best subdivisions. Among the many excellent farmers of this progressive and wealthy county who is of German birth none occupies a more prominent place than Juergen P. Gosch, who arose from a poor immigrant to become one of the wealthy and influential figures in the county.

Juergen P. Gosch has resided on his large farm of five hundred and twenty-three acres in Levey township since the year 1880 and has developed it from prairie land to one of the best equipped and most productive in the county. He was born March 2, 1848, in Schleswig, Germany, and is the son of Peter and Mary Gosch. When he was twenty-four years of age he came to America and in the spring of 1872 located in Jackson county, Iowa, where he worked at farm labor for a period of five years and saved his money. While a resident of Jackson county he married and then decided that it was time to become a land owner and tiller of his own land. First, he rented a





RESIDENCE OF JUERGEN P. GOSCH





JØRGEN P. GOSCH AND FAMILY



farm for two years, then came to Sac county and invested his savings in one hundred and twenty acres of land in Levey township, which formed the nucleus of his present large acreage. This first tract of land cost him twenty dollars an acre and was purchased on a time contract, as was the custom in that early day. Very few settlers came to Sac county with much money, and Mr. Gosch was as poor as his neighbors at that time. A few years later he bought one hundred and eighty-eight acres at a cost price of twenty-eight dollars an acre. In 1889 he again invested in a tract of two hundred and twenty-three acres at a cost of thirty-nine dollars an acre. The Northwestern railroad cuts diagonally through Mr. Gosch's section, hence the odd acreage. Mr. Gosch has from time to time invested in lands in Dakota, Kansas and Iowa, and has usually sold out at a profit. At the present time he is the owner of an entire section of land in Kansas and owns a half section of fine farm lands in Dakota. On his Sac county farm are three sets of farm buildings, all in excellent condition. His home farm is a very fine one and the residence is exceptionally good, as will be seen by the view herein presented. Nearly all the buildings have been built or remodeled by Mr. Gosch and are kept in very good condition. He also owns a nice residence in Wall Lake, where it is his intention to retire very soon and take life easy, as he can well afford to do. Of late years he has entrusted the work of the farms to his children.

For a number of years Mr. Gosch has been a breeder of Percheron horses and has a band of forty head of fine thoroughbred stock on his farm. He has always paid considerable attention to the raising of live stock for the market and is a live-stock farmer. Among his forty head of fine horses are about twenty-five head of registered Percherons, which are worth fancy prices in the market.

In the year 1877 this successful farmer was married to Mrs. Mary Mohr Sonderman, a widow who had two children by a former marriage, Ella, deceased, and Mrs. Minnie Putbres, of Sac county. There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gosch the following children: Fred and Henry, who are tilling the home farm; Mrs. Anna Wunscher, of Delaware township; Mrs. Margarita Patee, of Eden township; Carl and August, at home; Mrs. Katie Plautz, of Clinton township; Alvena and Detlef, at home with their parents.

The mother of these children was born in 1853 on the ocean aboard a sailing vessel enroute to America from Germany. She was the daughter of Fred and Elzaba Mohr, who first settled near Davenport, down the river in the timber belt of Jackson county. This was in the year 1853, when settlers were few and far apart in that section of Iowa, and the Mohrs endured many

hardships. They, the parents of Mrs. Gosch, were among the very earliest pioneer settlers of Jackson county and lived and died in the county, well respected by all who knew them.

Mr. Gosch himself has not succeeded to his present position of affluence without hardships of a serious character at times, and his success has been due to hard work and thrift, combined with keen financial ability and rare business acumen. One of the most serious disasters with which he had to contend was in 1889, when his barns and outbuildings were destroyed by fire. At that time he had the largest barn in Sac county, and his loss was considerable. Five horses, five thousand bushels of corn, ninety tons of hay, and buggies and harness were lost in the holocaust.

Mr. Gosch is allied with the Democratic party and has served his township as trustee and president of the school board. Like many other successful men of affairs, he finds time and has the inclination to take an active part in local politics, and his influence has generally been on the side of right and progress. Having a large family of children himself, he has ever been in favor of a good school system, and located on the corner of his farm is one of Sac county's modern district school buildings. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church and Mr. Gosch is a liberal contributor to the support of this denomination, which at present is erecting a fine modern church edifice in the town of Wall Lake. His long residence in Sac county, his marked success as a citizen and agriculturist and stockman makes him eminently entitled to representation in this valuable work.

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### CLAIRE A. DREWRY.

Iowa is one of the newer states of the Union and Sac county is one of the youngest counties of the state. While the father of Claire A. Drewry, whose history is presented in this connection, was one of the first pioneer settlers to brave the prairie fires of Douglas township, this county, it is probable that Claire A. Drewry is the first and oldest farmer now living who was born within the precincts of this township, consequently the Drewry family have been witnesses of the remarkable growth which this county has experienced in the fifty-odd years which have elapsed since its organization.

Claire A. Drewry, son of W. P. and Sarah Jane (Roundsville) Drewry, was born in a log cabin built by his father in Douglas township, Sac county,

Iowa, on March 10, 1869. W. P. Drewry was born in September, 1839, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Drewry. W. P. Drewry was reared in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, where his parents moved in 1844, and came to Sac county, Iowa, in 1866, and homesteaded on the quarter section farm now owned by his son, C. A. On this homestead he constructed a rude log cabin on April 12, 1866, although he had previously lived in a tent. He has the honor of being the first settler on the prairie in Douglas township, as the other settlers stayed by the timber along the river, but he broke the way by boldly pushing out into the open prairie and digging out his homestead. Other settlers, seeing the success of his efforts, rapidly began entering the land around him, with the result that his example was soon followed by a sufficient number of settlers to occupy all the land in the township. W. P. Drewry taught school in connection with his farm duties in the winters for about twenty years after locating in Sac county and had the distinction at one time or another of assisting nearly all of the earlier generation of children to at least a part of their education. He also served as county superintendent of schools one term and was representative from this county in the twenty-fourth General Assembly in 1892. W. P. Drewry and wife were the parents of four sons and one daughter: Mrs. Mary E. Drewry, of Sac City, Iowa; Willis B., of Windom, Minnesota; Edward O., of Montana; C. A., of whom this chronicle speaks, and Ray F., of Bison, South Dakota.

Claire A. Drewry has lived his whole life on one farm. His father owned seven hundred and twenty acres of land in one tract at one time prior to his death, in 1904, and gave to each of his sons a quarter section, Claire A. receiving the farm on which the house had been built. He has improved his home, built a large barn, sixty by sixty-four, with concrete floors, and otherwise improved the farm with fencing and ditching until it is one of the most productive in the township. He raises a large number of cattle, hogs and sheep in addition to his grain crops, and has been remarkably successful in all of his enterprises.

Mr. Drewry was married in October, 1902, to Lavanda L. Abbott, of Rushville, Nebraska, and to this marriage have been born two children, Sarah J. and Mamie. Politically, Mr. Drewry is a Republican, but has never held any public offices. The family are members of the Christian church and give it their earnest support. Fraternally, Mr. Drewry is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Sac City. By a straightforward and commendable course, Mr. Drewry has made his way to a respectable position in the agricultural world and has won the hearty admiration of the people of his

township as a progressive man of affairs. He is a man of pleasing personality and has a host of friends and acquaintances throughout the township and community in which he has spent his entire life.

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### BENJAMIN M. BUEHLER.

One of the youngest of the substantial farmers of Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, is Benjamin M. Buehler, one of the three sons of Jacob Buehler, deceased, who are living in this same township. Mr. Buehler is a bright, active young farmer who is interested in life from every standpoint. He is full of energy and enthusiasm and that love for humanity which characterizes the typical American citizen.

Benjamin M. Buehler, the son of Jacob and Eliza Buehler, was born October 25, 1885, in the house where he is now living. Since the history of the Buehler family is related in the sketch of Jacob Buehler, deceased, the reader is referred to that article for further particulars on this interesting family.

Benjamin M. Buehler received his education in the schools of Richland township, in what is known as the Willow Tree school house. After leaving school he worked on the home farm with his father until his marriage, which occurred on February 14, 1907, at which time he was married to Lillie Schaefer, the daughter of Christopher Schaefer and wife, residents of Schaller. The Schaefers were early settlers in Sac county, and the reader is referred to the history of Christopher Schaefer, elsewhere in this volume, for additional information on the family. Mr. and Mrs. Buehler are the parents of three children: Ruth, born December 12, 1907; Robert, born April 7, 1909, and Ben, born March 14, 1912.

Mr. Buehler now owns eighty acres of land of his own and, in addition to this, farms eighty acres more, which he rents. In addition to his farming operations he also manages a threshing machine outfit during the summer season and finds this a profitable investment. He is a breeder of Polled Durham cattle and takes a great deal of justifiable pride in his high grade of live stock, which he finds a very valuable adjunct to his agricultural interests. Mr. Buehler came into possession of the home place in 1907, and since that time has improved the place in many ways. He has two excellent barns and a large corn crib, and all of his buildings are thoroughly up-to-date and convenient for the housing of his stock, being roofed with sheet steel.

Mr. Buehler has allied himself with the new Progressive party and takes an intelligent interest in all of the political issues of the day. He is a staunch and active member of the German Methodist Episcopal church of Richland township and gives to it his earnest support, both in time and substance. This church is probably the oldest church of the township and has been a power for good since the time of its organization. While Mr. Buehler is a busy man with his various interests, he has found time to develop himself into an amateur photographer of real ability. He follows this vocation for the benefit and pleasure of himself and friends, and is possessed of unusual artistic ability.

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### CHARLES M. COLLENBAUGH.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest opinion of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and friends. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch the writer aims to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, broad charity and well-defined purpose.

Charles M. Collenbaugh, a prosperous farmer of Cook township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in the good old Hoosier state of Indiana in March, 1871. His parents were Christopher and Rosanna (Maxwell) Collenbaugh, who were natives of Ohio and later became early settlers in Owen county, Indiana. In 1877 the Collenbaugh family moved to Clinton county, Iowa, and six years later they settled in Sac county, where they purchased a farm in Cook township. Mr. and Mrs. Collenbaugh lived on this farm until 1903, when they moved to Odebolt, where Christopher Collenbaugh died in August, 1905, and his widow still resides in Odebolt. They were the parents of five children: Mrs. Marie Flathers, of Odebolt; John, of Sioux county, Iowa; Mrs. Alice Davenport, a resident of Odebolt; Frank, a farmer of Cedar township, this county, and Charles M., whose history forms the theme of this narrative.

Charles M. Collenbaugh was educated in the district schools of Cook township, and has lived on his present farm since March, 1883. Upon the death of his father, in 1905, he bought the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead farm, and has added land from time to time to this tract until



he now has an estate of one hundred and forty acres. In the spring of 1912 he erected a fine, modern home with eleven rooms and has his home fitted out with all the modern conveniences. He has a large number of trees on the farm, which, together with splendid fencing and good outbuildings, gives the farm a very attractive appearance. He raises a considerable amount of live stock and markets annually about one hundred head of hogs and thirty-five head of cattle.

Mr. Collenbaugh was married in March, 1903, to Mary, the daughter of William Rhule, of this county, and to this marriage have been born three children, Manie, Laura and Inez, who are all in school. Politically, Mr. Collenbaugh lends his influence and vote to the Republican party, but has never been an aspirant for any public office. He and his family are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Collenbaugh takes an interest in the public questions of the day and is well informed on all current issues which are to-day before the American people. He is not afraid to express his opinion on any subject, and yet he is considerate of the views of his fellow citizens. His life has been lived in strict conformity with high ideals of citizenship, and for this reason he is justly regarded as one of the representative citizens of this county and is eminently entitled to mention in this volume.

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### ISAAC N. MEAD.

The biographer is especially gratified when he finds before him the task of preparing even a brief sketch of the life of a man who by his own unaided efforts has raised himself from humble circumstances to a pleasing competence and high regard in the esteem of his fellowmen. Success in this life almost always comes to the deserving. It has been repeatedly proven that one gets out of this life what he sincerely puts into it, plus a reasonable interest on his investment, and to the young man who starts out in life with a firm determination to win a place for himself, and regulates all his affairs of life by the correct principles of living, success is sure to come. This is success of the highest type, which cannot be truly appreciated by many so-called successful men who at the very outset of life found themselves surrounded by many advantages procured for them by a kind and indulgent parent. Men of this latter class can not appreciate the effort put forth by the man who starts in life unaided and by sheer force of will forges ahead and at length, through many disappointments possibly, arrives at a place of honor among his fellow citi-

zens. The subject of this sketch is a creditable representative of the class last named, a class which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country and added to the stability of our government.

Isaac N. Mead, farmer of Cook township, Sac county, Iowa, was born on February 7, 1852, in the state of New York, the son of Almond and Elizabeth (Ricks) Mead, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in England. In 1856 Almond Mead decided to become one of the pioneers of the great and growing West, and brought his family to the state of Wisconsin, settling in Grant county. Here he engaged in farm work and was making fair progress in business matters when the Civil War broke out, and, being a man of strong patriotic principles, he enlisted as a private in the Thirty-third Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and died while in the service, never having been able to return to his home. This left his young widow with the problem of raising her three children without a father's help. The oldest child was Isaac N., of whom this narrative speaks, who at the tender age of eleven began working out in an effort to assist his mother in supporting the others. He succeeded well in his earnest efforts and with his assistance the mother was able to keep the little family together. One child, Janie, died at the age of nine years, and the third child of the family is Andrew, who is engaged in farming in Ida county, this state. Mr. Mead's mother continued to make her home in Wisconsin and died there in March, 1910.

In the spring of 1874 Mr. Mead first came to this state, coming directly to Sac county, and secured employment on a farm located about three miles south of Odebolt. Here he remained for six years, working by the month. He saved his money and in the fall of 1878 was able to purchase a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres, for which he paid seven and one-half dollars per acre. He continued at his place of employment for two years more, and in the spring of 1880 moved onto the land which he had bought, which, being raw prairie land, he proceeded to clear and cultivate in true pioneer style. He erected a small but comfortable dwelling, sixteen by twenty-four feet in size, and has since made this his home, making additions and improvements to the original house at two different times. While he has not increased the acreage of his home farm, he has purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land in the Red River valley in Minnesota. For the past several years he has been retired from the active work of the farm, which is in the competent hands of his son.

On December 30, 1879, Mr. Mead was united in marriage with Mellie Leota Gulliford, which union has been blessed with one child, Lester, the son

above referred to, who is married and resides on the home farm. Mr. and Mrs. Mead's religious affiliations are with the Christian church at Schaller, and in the affairs of that society they take a commendable interest. In politics he is a Republican, inclined to progressive ideas. Mr. Mead is a man who easily makes friends and retains them. United in his composition are so many elements of a provident, practical nature that throughout the years they have earned for him a place among the enterprising men of his county and a just recognition of his worthiness.

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### F. E. WILLIAMS, M. D. C.

Professional success results from merit. Frequently in commercial life one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but in what are known as the learned professions advancement is gained only through painstaking and long continued effort. Prestige in the healing art is the outcome of strong mentality, close application, thorough mastery of its great underlying principles and the ability to apply theory to practice in the treatment of diseases. Good intellectual training, thorough professional knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes essential to success, have made the subject of this review eminent in his chosen calling and he is recognized as one of the leading veterinary surgeons in northwestern Iowa.

Dr. F. E. Williams, a veterinary surgeon of Odebolt, Iowa, was born in the town where he is now practicing on January 29, 1880. His parents were John and Hannah (Peterson) Williams, both of whom were natives of Sweden. John Williams was born in 1847 and came to America in about 1865. His wife came to this country in 1866, when she was about sixteen years of age. John Williams operated a general store in Odebolt, in the early eighties, but retired from business in 1898, though still remaining in Odebolt. John Williams and wife were the parents of seven children: Albert J., of Omaha; Emma, deceased; Dr. Charles D., of Woodbine, Iowa; Dr. Frank E., whose history is delineated here; George V., of Omaha; Edward H. and Harry O., of Blencoe, Iowa.

Dr. Frank E. Williams received his common and high school education in the Odebolt schools, graduating from the Odebolt high school in 1898. After graduating he engaged with his brother, Charles, in the flour, feed and coal business in Odebolt, also assisted his brother in the drug business. He

served for a time as assistant postmaster of Odebolt. However, he decided that he wanted to become a veterinary surgeon, so with this end in view he began to investigate the merits of the various veterinary schools in the country; he finally selected the Chicago Veterinary College as one with an established reputation and entered there, graduating with the class of 1907. Upon graduation he started the practice of his profession in Villisca, Iowa, but a year later returned to his native town and located. He has met with success in the six years which he has been established at Odebolt. So pronounced has been his success that he felt justified in erecting a veterinary hospital in 1909, where he could more satisfactorily treat the worse cases. His practice now covers a territory of several miles, his trips making him seventeen miles south, ten miles east, ten miles north and ten miles west, from Odebolt.

Doctor Williams was married in January, 1911, to Anna N. Hanson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hanson, who were pioneer settlers of this township; they have one son, Brooks Edward, who was born May 30, 1913. In politics, Doctor Williams is a Progressive Republican, but the nature of his business keeps him from taking an active part in politics. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and contribute liberally to its support. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and Modern Woodmen of America. In his chosen field of endeavor, Doctor Williams has achieved a notable success and has an eminent standing among the veterinary surgeons of this state. In addition to his creditable career in one of the most useful professions, he has also proved a strong member of the body politic, who is always willing to perform his share of the duties which fall to the lot of the American citizen. He is a man of genial personality and has a host of friends scattered throughout a wide territory.

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### JACOB G. BUEHLER.

The descendants of the German settlers of this county are always characterized by those traits which rendered their fathers successful. Heredity seems to have given them a fair share of the good qualities which made their fathers so successful. Among the younger farmers of this county, Jacob G. Buehler is fast coming to the front as one of the most substantial agriculturists of his township and community.

Jacob G. Buehler was born May 5, 1871, in Lake county, Indiana, the son of Jacob and Eliza Buehler, who were both natives of Germany, and

came to Sac county, Iowa, when Jacob G. was only one year old. The history of the Buehler family is given in the sketch of Jacob Buehler, deceased, who is represented elsewhere in this volume.

Jacob G. Buehler was reared and educated in Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, received most of his education in the Willow Tree school, near his old home, and spent his summers in assisting his father on the farm. At the age of twenty-seven he started to farm for himself with eighty acres which his father gave him, and in 1907 he added forty acres, and the year following erected a fine home on his farm. He raises all the crops which are common to this section of the state, and in addition gives a great deal of attention to the breeding of live stock, which adds greatly to his annual income. In 1913 he had forty-five acres of corn, which averaged fifty bushels to the acre, and this was a remarkable yield, considering the nature of the 1913 season. In 1913 he also marketed twenty-five head of cattle and forty head of hogs, and usually averages at least that much each year.

Mr. Buehler was married on February 1, 1900, to Minnie Hanson, the daughter of William and Mary (Burgert) Hanson, of Ida county, Iowa, and to this union there have been born two children, Lillian, born November 23, 1901, and Orville, born January 19, 1903. The Progressive party has claimed the ballot of Mr. Buehler since it was organized, in the summer of 1912, while in his religious faith he and his family are loyal and earnest members of the German Methodist Episcopal church and give to it their earnest and liberal support at all times.

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### HARRY H. HANSON.

One of the youngest and most prosperous farmers of Sac county is Harry H. Hanson, who is the owner of one hundred and fifty acres of fine land adjoining the town of Odebolt, Richland township. He is a fine type of the agriculturists who have received a good high school education and then returned to the farm. Too many of our young men today feel that farming does not offer the opportunity that may be found in other professions, and it is an important thing to note that an increasing number of our young men have been born on the farm, returning to it even though they have received a splendid education.

Harry H. Hanson was born November 21, 1887, in Richland township, Sac county, and is the son of Nels and Anna Hanson, who were natives of

Sweden. Harry H. Hanson was educated in the district schools of his township and in 1906 graduated from the Odebolt high school. For two years after he graduated from the high school he was employed in a hardware store in Odebolt. He then married and moved on to his present farm of one hundred and fifty acres, where he is fast building up a reputation as one of the most progressive farmers of the county. In the summer of 1912 he erected a fine barn of cement block, which is thirty-two by sixty feet in size. The barn has concrete floors—in fact, is one of the very few barns in Sac county which are practically all concrete. This barn was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars and is a model of convenience and stability.

Mr. Hanson was married on September 2, 1908, to Margaretta E. Newcom, the daughter of George W. and Sarah M. (McKim) Newcom. To this union have been born two daughters, Sarah Kathleen and Doris Anna.

George W. Newcom, the father of Mrs. Hanson, was born August 1, 1852, in Scotland county, Missouri, and is the son of Wilman T. and Margaretta Newcom, natives of Kentucky. His parents came from Kentucky to Missouri and from thence they moved to Crawford county, Iowa, in about 1865. In that county George W. Newcom was reared. In 1874 he was married to Sarah M. McKim, who was born in 1853 in York county, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Ethan A. and Elizabeth McKim. The McKims came from Pennsylvania to Crawford county, Iowa, in 1861 and were among the pioneer settlers of that county. Mr. McKim had previously made a trip to Iowa in 1857 and was convinced that the county would soon become one of the most prosperous of the state. Ethan A. McKim prospered on his farm in Crawford county, and in 1900 moved to the village of Deloit, where he died. His widow is still living in Deloit, in her eighty-third year. George W. Newcom and wife farmed in Crawford county until 1884, and then moved to Nebraska, where they resided eight years. In 1892 they sold out their hardware store in Gage county, Nebraska, and located in Sac county on one hundred and sixty acres adjoining Odebolt on the north. Mrs. Newcom still owns the two-hundred-acre farm in Crawford county, this state, on which they lived for ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Newcom were the parents of four children: Gertrude, deceased; Jessie, deceased; Clifton T., deceased, and Margaretta, the wife of Harry H. Hanson.

Mr. Hanson, like many other men, felt in the summer of 1912 that the new Progressive party was destined to bring about a revolution in the affairs of this country. Accordingly, he lent his influence to this new party and has not regretted the step made at that time. He and his wife are members of the



Methodist Episcopal church and contribute freely of their substance to its support. They move in the best social circles of this community, and being genial and unassuming in their relations with their friends, they have a large and loyal circle of friends, who cherish them for their many good qualities.

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### A. H. ELLIS.

The gentleman to a review of whose life the reader's attention is now respectfully directed is recognized as one of the energetic, well-known business men of Sac county, who, by his enterprise and progressive methods, has contributed in a material way to the commercial advancement of the locality where he lives. In the course of an honorable career he has been successful in the manifold lines to which his efforts have been directed and, enjoying distinctive prestige among the representative men of his community, it is eminently proper that attention be called to his achievements and due credit be accorded to his worth as an enterprising citizen.

A. H. Ellis, secretary of the Sac City Canning Company, was born in Benton, Iowa, in 1879, and is the son of W. C. Ellis, president and chief stockholder of the Sac City Canning Company. W. C. Ellis was born in Indiana, but has resided in Benton, Iowa, practically all of his life. He has been a man with large business interests, being interested in lumber and banking in addition to his canning interests.

The Sac City Canning Company was incorporated in 1900, with the following incorporators: C. Ellis, W. C. Ellis, H. H. Allison, D. E. Hollet and others. It started out with a capital stock of thirty thousand dollars and since then the capital stock has been increased to one hundred thousand dollars. In 1908 the company purchased the canning factory at Storm Lake and operate it in connection with the one at Sac City. The president of the company is W. C. Ellis, who is also the chief stockholder. The first secretary was H. H. Allison, who was succeeded in 1911 by A. H. Ellis; L. H. Marietta is superintendent of the Sac City plant. The two plants, combined, have a capacity of eighty thousand cases, or two million cans, annually and employ three hundred people during the canning season. The normal acreage contributing to the Sac City plant exceeds one thousand acres, having run as high as thirteen hundred acres. The plant at Sac City is modern in every way, occupies a three-story building, one hundred and forty-five by sixty feet. The boiler rooms are thirty by thirty feet and are equipped with two one-



hundred-and-fifty-horse-power boilers. There is a two-story brick warehouse, fifty by one hundred and fifty feet, where the canned goods are stored until placed upon the market. The company also operates a seed house.

A. H. Ellis was married in 1908 to Josephine Kirk, of Benton, Iowa. Fraternally, Mr. Ellis is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and takes a great deal of interest in the affairs of that fraternity. He is a young man of exceptional business ability and since taking charge of the affairs of the firm with which he is connected he has been instrumental in increasing the output and improving the condition of the company in various ways. He is a pleasant and genial man to meet and one who has a host of friends in this community.

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### JOHN REINHART.

There's a difference in men, for the standards of ability are different. The measures of success vary with the individual; many of the most successful are self made and proud of their achievements; others have become eminently successful by adding to their heritage. It requires a certain amount of intelligence and energy, combined with good judgment and financial ability, to increase a competence until it becomes a fortune, as well as to begin at the bottom and work upward to the top. In western Iowa and Sac county there are representatives of the two classes of men mentioned in the preceding lines and to which the writer refers: First, the pioneers who came and endured the hardships incidental to the making of a home and of whom many became extensive land owners; second, their sons, who have followed in their footsteps and maintained the prestige of the family and have indicated that they have inherited the gifts of their illustrious parents. In John Reinhart, extensive farmer and stockman of Boyer Valley township, we have a successful son of a widely-known and successful German pioneer settler in Sac county. "Like father, like son," has been exemplified in the life history of John Reinhart and his father.

John Reinhart, of Boyer Valley township, Sac county, was the owner of two thousand acres of land until recently, when he sold some of his land. He is the owner of six farms in Boyer Valley and Eden townships. His home farm, in Boyer Valley township, comprises five hundred and sixty acres, four hundred and eighty acres of which is in section 16 and eighty acres in section 21. Mr. Reinhart raises and feeds over five hundred head of cattle annually.

and also produces over three hundred hogs for the markets each year. He resides in a fine, modern home of twelve rooms, erected in 1894, and has two large stock barns and grain elevators on the place. No grain is sold from his farms, as everything the land produces is fed to live stock, which is sold on the hoof. Mr. Reinhart is also the owner of a tract of land on the shores of Spirit Lake, Iowa, which will probably be transformed into a stock farm and buffalo and deer range, he being the owner of a herd of buffalos, purchased in 1913.

Mr. Reinhart was born September 22, 1869, in Lee county, Illinois, the son of Henry and Martha (Hudzell) Reinhart, natives of Prussia, Germany. Henry came to America with his parents when ten years of age. Martha Hudzell came about the same time, in company with her parents. The family settled in Lee county, Illinois, whence Henry came to Sac county in 1877. He settled in Clinton township, where he prospered exceedingly and became the owner of over three thousand acres of rich farming land. During his later years he made his residence in Sioux City, where he died in 1897. From being a poor boy to becoming the owner of one of the largest farms in Sac county and being rated as one of the county's richest citizens, is a long step forward, and the results were due to foresight, tireless energy and keen financial ability. Mrs. Henry Reinhart died in 1907. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Mrs. Catharine Fuchs, deceased, former wife of John Fuchs, of Odelott; Christine, wife of George Stephan, of Fowler valley township, now deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Beiser, of Nebraska; John; Mrs. Anna Smith, of Sioux City; Charley, deceased; Oscar, of Birmingham, Alabama.

John Reinhart received his education in the district schools of Clinton township and was brought up to lead the life of a farmer. When he attained the age of twenty-one years his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land outright; this was an ample start for the son, inasmuch as he has added continuously to his acreage and followed in the footsteps of his father, who set him the example of the best methods of conducting his farming operations and of taking care of the financial end of a large and growing business. His first addition of two hundred and ten acres to his first holdings cost him thirty dollars an acre; he has paid for his land at prices ranging as follows: Fifty dollars, fifty dollars and fifty cents, seventy-five, eighty-five and ninety dollars per acre. This land is now selling at prices ranging from one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre.

Mr. Reinhart was married in 1888 to Paulina Hilleman, of Marshall

county, Iowa, who has borne him eight children, as follows: Zephra, who is married and lives in South Dakota, Earl, Henry, Alice, Elmer, Edna, Mildred and Mabel, all at home.

Mr. Reinhart is a Progressive Republican in politics and believes in progressive principles of government, being generally found aligned with the better elements in political campaigns. Mr. Reinhart espouses the Presbyterian faith, this church having been that of his parents and forbears for many years. He is essentially a home man and is not a member of any lodges or fraternal societies of any consequence. Ever ready to assist in a worthy undertaking, approachable and unassuming, he is an excellent citizen in every respect. While Mr. Reinhart is one of the largest land owners in the county and one of the most successful stockmen in western Iowa, he is just a plain farmer, honest to the innermost being, who loves the soil, his home and his vocation.

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#### OLIVER MACKEY.

Sac county, Iowa, is greatly indebted to the Irish element which has come here from time to time and became incorporated in the body politic of this county. These loyal sons of the Emerald isle have assisted in the development of this locality from a wild prairie to its present high standing among its sister counties in the Hawkeye state. These men of Irish descent came to this country in order to get to live in a country where freedom was the paramount thing, and where they could eventually become owners of a home to themselves, a thing which is practically impossible in their native land.

Oliver Mackey, one of the substantial farmers of Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa, was born May 7, 1840, in Londonderry, Ireland. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Lindsay) Mackey, came to this country in 1861, settling in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they lived the remainder of their lives. William Mackey was a day laborer but was always able to earn an honest living for his family. William Mackey and wife reared a family of six children: Mrs. Jane McLaughlin, who died in Minnesota; Eliza, who died in Ireland; Lindsay, who died in Minnesota; Katherine Mary, who died in Philadelphia; James, of Minnesota, and Oliver, with whom this narrative is concerned.

Oliver Mackey received a very meager education in the schools of Ireland, and when a very young lad started to work in order to assist the family. This young boy had visions in his youth, and before he was fourteen years

of age he had been thinking of coming to America and casting his fortunes in this "land of the free and home of the brave." Before he was fourteen years of age his mind was made up and, with four pounds of English money, he purchased his passage to America on one of the old-fashioned sailing vessels.

May 1, 1854, was a red-letter day in the history of Oliver Mackey, for on that day he landed in this country and when he walked down the streets of New York this little Irish boy little dreamed that one day he would become one of the prosperous farmers of the great state of Iowa, but history can tell strange stories and there is no stranger story than one which tells of the career of Oliver Mackey and thousands of other young men who have come from foreign lands to this country under similar conditions. He had enough money after working a year in New York to reach Minnesota, and as soon as he reached that state he homesteaded a farm and after two years was able to prove his claim. He at once sold it for seven hundred dollars and a drove of cattle, and two years later he was in Postville, Allamakee county, Iowa. By this time he was married and something of the courage of this young Irish lad may be gathered from the fact that he was married when he was only sixteen years of age. After landing in Allamakee county, this state, in 1858, he at once purchased one hundred and sixty acres of good land, where he lived until 1889. He improved his land in various ways, and when he sold it he realized sixty dollars an acre for it and, with the nine thousand six hundred dollars in his pocket, he came to Sac county, Iowa, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Clinton township, for which he paid forty dollars an acre. On this farm he has continued to reside up to the present time, having greatly improved it in the way of erecting new buildings, improving the old ones, and building fences all over the farm, so that he has increased the value of the tract until he has been offered two hundred dollars an acre for it. The house on this farm was destroyed by fire and he rebuilt in 1906, placing a fine, modern and up-to-date residence on his farm. In 1913 Mr. Mackey took off one crop from one eighty acres which netted him one thousand dollars, so it can be readily seen why this land is worth two hundred dollars an acre.

Mr. Mackey has been three times married. His first marriage was in 1856, to Mary Love, who died in 1873, and to this marriage there was born one son, John, who died in November, 1911. The second marriage of Mr. Mackey occurred in 1874, to Helen Mitchell, who died in 1883, and to this marriage there were three children born: Mabel, the wife of George Long, a farmer of this township; Mrs. Edna Fox, of Jasper, Minnesota, and Mrs.

Alta Downey, of Bloomfield, Nebraska. Mr. Mackey was again married February 20, 1886, to Laura Deering, who was born June 28, 1867, in Berlin, Germany. Her parents were Charles and Caroline Deering, who came to America and located in Marquette, Michigan, in 1867. Her father was a copper and iron miner. He saved his money and in 1876 came to Postville, Allamakee county, Iowa, and purchased a farm, where both of the parents died. There were four children born to the third marriage of Mr. Mackey: Ray, a farmer of Clinton township; Ethel, who married A. W. Quick, February 20, 1912. Mr. Quick is the son of William Quick, one of the early pioneer settlers of Sac county; Leonard, a farmer of Clinton township; Laura, who died at the age of six months, and Leland, who is still at home.

The Republican party has always claimed the ballot of Mr. Mackey and he has always taken an intelligent interest in the political questions of the day. His services as a public official have been confined to the office of road supervisor, which office he held while living at Postville, in Allamakee county. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, while in his church relations he is found identified with the Methodist church at Bethel. Mr. Mackey has had few opportunities except what his own efforts have brought him, and the success which has attended his career in this county is proof of the fact that he has fully mastered every opportunity as it presented itself to him. He now has the gratification of knowing that he has a competency to insure against future want and that he is held in high regard by the community where he has so long lived and labored.

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#### RAYMOND CLEMENT SHAFFER, M. D.

One of the popular and essentially representative physicians of Sac county is Dr. Raymond Clement Shaffer, of Odebolt, who is a native son of the Hawkeye state. It has been through his own exertions and the applications of his own powers that Doctor Shaffer has risen to a position as one of the successful members of his profession. Imbued with self-reliance, courage and ambition, he has made steady progress in one of the most exacting callings to which man may devote his energies.

Raymond Clement Shaffer was born at Cascade, Iowa, June 27, 1885, the son of William R. and Margaret (McKeeren) Shaffer, both of whom

were also natives of Cascade. William R. Shaffer was born in 1860, the son of Nicholas Shaffer, a native of Loraine, France, who came to America when a youth and settled in Pennsylvania, where he married. He came to Cascade, Dubuque county, Iowa, in the late forties, being one of the sturdy pioneers of that locality. He had a large farm and also owned and operated a livery stable. He was a man of considerable influence in his community and served as mayor of Cascade and justice of the peace for three terms. He died in 1899, at the age of seventy-six. The father of Margaret McKeeren was Peter McKeeren, a native of county Mayo, Ireland, who emigrated to America after his marriage and settled in Cascade, Iowa, about 1861. He was a farmer by occupation. His sons fought in the Civil War.

William R. and Margaret (McKeeren) Shaffer reared seven children, four sons and three daughters, named as follows: Dr. R. C., the immediate subject of this sketch; William R., a traveling salesman of St. Louis, Missouri; Josephine Shaffer, who is a stenographer for Dun & Bradstreet, of St. Louis, Missouri; Benice Shaffer, who is a stenographer for the Texas Oil Company, St. Louis; Mrs. Gladys Brieding, of St. Louis; Thomas, who is a drug clerk in St. Louis; Julia is attending school at St. Louis and resides with her mother in that city. The father of these children died December 21, 1906.

Doctor Shaffer received his primary education in the public schools of the city of St. Louis, his parents having removed to East St. Louis, Illinois, when he was fifteen months old. His father was employed as fireman for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company in East St. Louis, but in 1890 he gave up this position and removed to St. Louis, where he secured a position as a stationary engineer. Here the boy was educated in the St. Louis high school, and upon completion of his studies he took employment as a compositor or typesetter and worked in this capacity for a number of years in the employ of the C. E. Darnell Printing Company and other firms. He had a laudable ambition to study medicine, and during the eight years that he worked as a typesetter he studied medical books and prepared himself for college work. He thus, by his own individual efforts and tireless energy, was enabled to enter the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons, from which institution he was graduated April 27, 1908. For three years he practiced his profession in the city of St. Louis, and on December 21, 1911, he located in Odebolt, Iowa, and has been engaged in successful practice here since. He is licensed to practice medicine in the states of Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. The Doctor is also a licensed embalmer.



Doctor Shaffer was married April 24, 1913, to Theresa Nolte, of St. Louis, Missouri. Not only does Doctor Shaffer have high standing as a physician, but he is also held in high esteem as a broad-minded, liberal and progressive citizen, devoted to the best interests of his community.

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### W. LOUIS MEHLBRECH.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a city or county, or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life work of those who, by their own endeavor and indefatigable energy, have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this sketch will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active and less able plodders on the highway of life, one who has not been subdued by the many obstacles and failures that come to every one, but who has made them stepping stones to higher things and at the same time that he was winning his way in material affairs of life gained a reputation for uprightness and honor.

W. Louis Mehlbrech, one of the prosperous young farmers of Clinton township, Sac county, Iowa, was born in Lee county, Illinois, on September 16, 1881. His parents, John and Gertrude Mehlbrech, were born, reared and married in Germany. They came to the United States and settled in Lee county, Illinois, where they lived until the spring of 1882. They then moved to Sac county and settled on the southwestern part of section 16, in this township, where they lived until 1906. They then moved to South Dakota, where they are now residing. Mr. and Mrs. John Mehlbrech were the parents of ten children: Henry, Mrs. Catherine Frey, W. Louis, John, Elizabeth, Mrs. Anna Elstrom, May, George, Augusta and Will. Three of the children, Louis, Elizabeth and Anna, are in Sac county; all of the others are now living in South Dakota.

W. Louis Mehlbrech was reared and educated in Clinton township and early in life began to work upon his father's farm. He was married in the year his parents moved to South Dakota and remained there one year. In 1913 Mr. Mehlbrech bought three hundred acres of land in Clay county, two and one-half miles northeast of Spencer, for one hundred and twenty-six dollars an acre and sold his Clinton township land for two hundred dollars an acre. He moved to his Clay county farm on March 1, 1914, where he is now residing.



Mr. Mehlbrech was married on January 17, 1909, to Lucelia Fuchs, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fuchs. Mr. Fuchs is the county supervisor of Sac county at the present time. Mr. and Mrs. Mehlbrech have four children: Glen, born January 23, 1907; Elwin, born March 21, 1909; Fay, born July 31, 1911, and Fern, born October 19, 1913.

The Republican party has held Mr. Mehlbrech in its ranks since he became of voting age and while he has never taken an active interest in his party, yet he has kept himself well informed on the main political questions of the day. He and his wife are loyal members of the German Reformed church and give liberally of their means to its support. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

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### C. P. ARMSTRONG.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the foremost business men of Lake View, Sac county, Iowa, and has by his enterprise and progressive methods contributed in no small measure to the industrial and commercial advancement of his community. Possessing splendid executive and business abilities, he has been successful in a material way and because of his sterling qualities he is numbered among the representative men of the city in which he lives.

C. P. Armstrong, a member of the Lakeview Auto Company, was born January 15, 1877, on the old Armstrong homestead in Wall Lake township, Sac county, Iowa, the son of Alden Armstrong and the grandson of Platt Armstrong.

C. P. Armstrong has resided in Lake View for the past twenty-six years with the exception of seven years which he spent in Minnesota on a farm. He went to Minnesota in 1905, and remained there until he became connected with the Lake View Auto Company as one of the managers and owners in the fall of 1912. At that time he purchased the interests of Alden Armstrong and P. Smith. The company sells automobiles and also has a well equipped repair department. They employ skilled mechanics and are equipped to do all kinds of automobile repairing.

Mr. Armstrong was married in July, 1902, to Mabel L. Honeyman, of Dallas Center, Iowa, and to this union have been born three children: Velma, aged ten; Alden, aged seven, and Robert, born February 28, 1914.

Politically, Mr. Armstrong is identified with the Progressive party,

having joined that new political party upon its organization in the summer of 1912. Fraternally, he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

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### HENRY BUEHLER.

To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, the sturdy persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which so prominently characterize the farming element of this state. Among this class may be mentioned the subject of this life record, who, by reason of years of indefatigable labor and honest effort, has not only acquired a well-merited material prosperity, but has also richly earned the high esteem of all with whom he is associated.

Henry Buehler, a farmer of Richland township, Sac county, Iowa, owning one hundred and sixty acres of land located just north of Odebolt, was born on April 1, 1876, on the old Buehler homestead in Richland township, being the son of Sebastian and Mary Buehler, who were early pioneer settlers of this county. They came here in 1872, did their share in bringing about the settling and improvement of this county, and elsewhere in this volume will be found an extended sketch of their lives and activities. Henry Buehler received his early education in the Willow Tree school, one of the educational landmarks of the county, and this was supplemented by one season in the schools of Odebolt. He had early received from his father training in the secrets of successful husbandry and at an early age began putting his knowledge into practice. For the last twelve years he has been engaged in farming for himself, when, in 1901, he moved on the farm he now owns near Odebolt. Here he carries on general farming, as practiced in this section, giving especial attention to the raising of sheep, having at present about one hundred and fifty head. He also has an excellent strain of horses, and is one of those up-to-date farmers who believe that no breed of live stock is too good for general farm purposes. Mr. Buehler has on his farm one of the very finest barns in the county. This he erected in 1913, at a cost of two thousand dollars. It covers a space of forty-four by sixty feet and is composed of concrete blocks and sheet steel. It has been most carefully and scientifically planned as to ventilation, stalls, etc., and is a structure of which the owner might pardonably be proud.

Mr. Buehler holds his religious affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal church at Richland, being one of the faithful and consistent members of that

body and contributing of time and means toward the support of the society. In politics, he is a Republican of the old school, while his fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Woodmen of America.

On February 26, 1902, Mr. Buehler was united in marriage with Marie Dannenberg, daughter of August Dannenberg, of Odebolt, and their union has been blessed with three children, namely: Louise, born February 24, 1903; Mildred, born November 14, 1905, and Dorothy, born April 13, 1911.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Buehler stand high in the respect of their fellow citizens and their manner of living is such as to fully deserve this high regard. Mr. Buehler is up-to-date in the manner of conducting his business and is in every respect honest and industrious. The early and proper development of Sac county has been due to the sterling quality of its citizenship and inasmuch as it has not yet attained its highest possibilities, such men as the subject of this sketch have much before them still in raising the moral, educational and material phases of the community to the very highest plane.















